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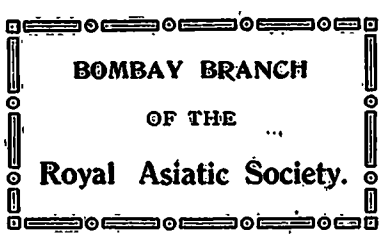

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TABLE OF CONTENTS.

PART I.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

	Page.
Political	vii
Legislative Council	xix
Industrial Disputes	xxii
Finance	xxv

PART II.

CHAPTER I.—PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

Changes in Administration	1
Relations with the Tributary States and Frontier Affairs—	
Cooch Behar	2
Tripura	3
Condition of the people	4

CHAPTER II.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

Realisation of the Revenue	6
Other Revenue Work	7
Surveys	8
Land Records and Settlement	8
Waste Lands	11
Government Estates	12
Wards and Attached Estates	13
Revenue and Rent-paying Classes	14
The Chittagong Hill Tracts	15

CHAPTER III-A.—PROTECTION.

Course of Legislation	16
Police Administration in the Bengal Presidency	19
Police Administration in Calcutta	21
Criminal Justice	23
Civil Justice	28
Chittagong Hill Tracts	35
Jails	36
Registration	38

CHAPTER III-B.—PROTECTION.

PAGE.

Municipal and Local Self-Government Department—

1. Calcutta Corporation 40
2. Calcutta Improvement Trust 45
3. Municipalities outside Calcutta 46
4. District Boards 55

CHAPTER IV-A.—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Agriculture 60
Weather and Crops 64
Co-operative Societies.. 67
Horticulture 73
Cinchona Plantation and Factory 74
Forests 75
Industries 77
Manufactures and Mines 79
Miscellaneous Manufactures and Minor Industries 81
Working of the Indian Factories Act, 1911 (XII of 1911) 82
Labour Disputes 83
Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926 84
Bengal Steam Boiler Commission 84
The Bengal Smoke Nuisance Commission 85
Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 (VIII of 1923) 85
Indian Companies Act, 1913, and Allied Acts 86
Provident Insurance Societies Act, 1912 87

Trade—

I.—Foreign Sea-borne Trade 88
II.—Coasting Trade 108

Marine Department—

Port of Calcutta (includes Calcutta Port Trust, Howrah Bridge, Pilotage of the Port) 109
Chittagong Port 110
Shipping and Navigation 110

CHAPTER IV-B.—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Public Works—

Buildings and Roads 111
Railways 119

CHAPTER IV-B.—Production and Distribution.

	Page.
Irrigation Department—	
Canals (Irrigation and Navigation)	122
Embankment and Drainage Works	125
South-Western Circle—	
Major Irrigation Works (unproductive)	125
Minor Irrigation Works	126
Other Irrigation Schemes in Western Bengal	126
Major Navigation Works (unproductive)	127
Minor Navigation Works	127
Southern Circle—	
Minor Navigation Works	130

CHAPTER V.—Revenue and Finance.

A.—Imperial Revenue and Finance	132
Salt	134
Income-tax	135
B.—Revenue and Finance other than Central—Provincial Finance ..	136
Stamps	142
Excise	143
Roads and Public Works Cesses	145

CHAPTER VI.—Vital Statistics and Medical Service.

Public Health	147
Mortality caused by wild animals and snakes	154
Vaccination	154
Sanitary Engineering	155
Medical Relief—	
Calcutta Hospitals and Dispensaries	156
District Hospitals and Dispensaries	157
Eden Sanitarium, Darjeeling	158
The Poisons Act	159
Health of the Port of Calcutta	159
Health of the Port of Chittagong	160
Inland Emigration	160

CHAPTER VII.—INSTRUCTION.

	PAGE.
Education	162
Literature and the Press	168
Arts and Sciences	168

CHAPTER VIII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Ecclesiastical	169
Hedjaz Pilgrims	169
Chemical Examiner's Department	169
Veterinary Department	170
Zoological Garden, Calcutta	171
Administration of the Indian Cinematograph Act	172
Administration of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910	172
Auxiliary Force, India, and Indian Territorial Force	173

Bengal Administration Report, 1928-29.

Introduction.

The Report is, as usual, divided into two parts. Part I deals chiefly with political events and the work of the Legislative Council in 1929, and contains a section on provincial finance in 1928-29. In Part II, a detailed account is given of the various branches of administration based on departmental reports. Where necessary, references have been given to the more comprehensive Administration Report of 1921-22 for supplementary information.

Part I.—General Summary.

Political.

Bengal in 1929 had its full share of events of political interest. It began with the Indian Statutory Commission present in Calcutta and with the Congress session drawing to its close. In the first hours of the year Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose's amendment calling upon Congress to declare complete independence to be its goal was defeated, and Congress adopted Mr. Gandhi's resolution threatening non-co-operation and the refusal of taxes if the constitution proposed by the Nehru Committee were not accepted by the British Parliament before the end of 1929. As the year ended, the Congress at Lahore passed Mr. Gandhi's resolution declaring complete independence to be its goal and enjoining a boycott of the legislatures. Again Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose pressed an amendment asking for a more extreme form of resolution, and again he was defeated. In Bengal political emotion reached its height when Jotindra Mohan Das died after his long hunger-strike in Lahore jail, and thousands thronged the streets of Calcutta as the funeral procession slowly passed to the burning ghat. The widespread strikes in the jute mills aroused anxiety but were ultimately settled without any serious disturbance of the peace. The growth of the youth movement had a disquieting effect on schools and colleges; but the greater part of the people

appeared to remain unmoved and there was no mass movement in support of the Congress programme. The bitter quarrel of the two rival leaders split the Congress Party in Bengal, and at the end of the year the division appeared unlikely to be settled.

Indian Statutory Commission.

2. The members of the Simon Commission and the Indian Central Committee, who went to Assam after the Christmas holidays, returned to Calcutta on the 12th January. Demonstrations against the Commission were threatened but were successfully controlled by the Calcutta Police, and the Joint Free Conference carried out its work without disturbance. Although the Congress Party maintained their policy of boycott, a variety of opinions were placed before the Conference by both official and non-official witnesses. An influential deputation from the British Indian Association gave the views of the Bengal zamindar and was followed by the representatives of leading Muhammadan and European associations, whilst deputations from depressed classes' associations and from a railway workers' union drew attention to the growing political consciousness of classes which in the past have shown little interest in public affairs. For Bengal the question of vital importance is the revision of the financial settlement, and this question and the allied problems arising out of the permanent settlement were subjected to thorough examination by Sir John Simon and his colleagues.

Defeat of the Ministers.

3. In the session of the Bengal Legislative Council, which began on the 4th February, interest was focussed on motions of no-confidence in the two Ministers, Nawab Musharruf Hossain and Raja Bhupendra Narayan Sinha Bahadur. The attack was almost entirely directed against the former, who was charged with using his control of the Excise Department, and in a lesser degree of the Registration Department, for the purpose of buying off political enemies and rewarding friends; but as the Ministers avowed their joint responsibility, the Hon'ble Raja Bahadur shared the fate of his colleague. Half the Muhammadan members joined with the Swarajist Party in voting for the motions, which were carried by votes of 65 to 59 and 62 to 59. During the course of the debate the leader of the European Party announced that should there be a change in the Ministry his party would not support any Minister unless he were able to give real guarantees that he would have a stable majority. In the voting on the Budget in March a motion to refuse Ministers' salaries was defeated by 69 votes to 34, showing that there was still a substantial non-official majority in favour of a Ministry in the abstract; but leaders with a sufficient following to support them in office were not forthcoming.

Election of Mayor of Calcutta.

4. The success of the Swarajist Party in defeating the Ministry was repeated early in April in the Calcutta Corporation, and was again due to the support of a Muhammadan group. In the previous year the Swarajist candidate, Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose, had been defeated by a coalition of the Muhammadans with other non-Swarajist groups. The Muhammadans now transferred their support to Mr. J. M. Sen Gupta, and the coalition were unable to put forward a candidate.

Dissolution of the Legislative Council and Election.

5. At the end of April, owing to the impossibility of finding in the Legislative Council a Ministry with any hope of stability, His Excellency the Governor decided to dissolve the Council. As in 1926 the Swaraj Party alone possessed an organisation worth the name, and professed to welcome the election. Mr. Sen Gupta announced that his party would fight the election on the four issues of the overthrow of dyarchy, the boycott of the Simon Commission, the Public Safety Ordinance and the Meerut conspiracy case. The first proved to be the most live issue, but the election was generally regarded with apathy except by the Congress Party. The electoral roll was almost three years old; the election came at short notice at the hottest time of the year: and a baseless rumour was spread that there would soon be another election. No less than 64 out of 114 members were returned without a contest, whilst in contested constituencies the percentage of votes polled was only 26·5 as compared with 39·4 in 1926. In the one European general constituency in which there was a contest, the percentage was only 5·1. The most striking development of the election was the discovery by parties and candidates that it was easier and cheaper to induce other candidates to withdraw than to fight an election at the polls, and in many cases the result of the election depended on manœuvring before the poll rather than on the poll itself. The activity of Swarajist leaders, especially Mr. Sen Gupta and Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose, was in marked contrast to the lack of both leaders and activity on the other side.

6. Briefly, the position at the time of the election was that there was an active Swarajist opposition in the field; the removable part of the Government which depended on the votes of the Legislative Council had already been removed; it had no following in the Hindu constituencies and but little support in Muhammadan circles; the irremovable part of the Government was debarred from taking part in the election. The Swarajists were keenly opposed to the formation of another Ministry; other people, apart from a few men who hoped to form a Ministry, cared little whether there was to be a Ministry or not. Other

political issues had little influence on the elections. A few candidates criticised the Bengal Tenancy Amendment Act passed in the previous autumn; another measure greatly affecting the lives of the people, the Rural Primary Education Bill, appears hardly to have been mentioned. The Muhammadans remained absorbed in personalities, coloured slightly on one side or the other by an anti-Government bias or a dislike of the Hindu Mahasabha influence over the Congress Party.

Results of the Election.

7. These conditions determined the results. In the non-Muhammadan constituencies the Swarajists gained a striking success. Out of fifty-seven elected Hindu members, forty-four were Swarajist and three may be described as Independent Congress, a difference in name that represented little more than a difference in opinion between the Provincial and District Congress Committees regarding the candidate to be put forward. Of the ten other Hindu members, six were Independents and only four represented the old Liberal Party. The Muhammadan groups were not well defined, but of the successful candidates twelve may be described as adherents of the Moslem League, receiving Congress support in the elections, eleven as members of the newly formed All-India Moslem Legislators' Associations, and the remaining sixteen as Independents. For comparison it may be recalled that in 1924 Mr. C. R. Das led a compact party of forty-seven, of whom twenty-one were Muhammadans, and also secured the general support of nineteen Independent Nationalists; and in 1926 the Congress Party consisted of thirty-six Hindu and two Muhammadan Swarajists and three Independent Congress Hindus.

The new Council and the Ministry.

8. Although one result of the election was the disappearance from the Legislative Council of both Sir Abdur Rahim and Maharaja Sashi Kanta Acharjya Chaudhuri, both leaders of groups who had supported the motions of no-confidence in the late Ministers, the composition of the new Council was no more favourable to the formation of a Ministry than that of the old. Mr. J. M. Sen Gupta, the leader of the largest party, declined to form a Ministry. In congratulating the Hon'ble Raja Manmatha Nath Ray Chaudhuri of Santosh, whose re-election as President of the Council was not opposed and was received with general satisfaction, Maulvi Fazlul Huq announced the formation of the new "Praja" or Tenants' Party, which had the support of about eighteen Muhammadan members and represented an attempt to form a strong Muhammadan party. But the voting on the election of the Deputy President showed that the Muhammadan vote was divided, and confirmed the estimate made in the Governor's speech to the Council that the composition of the new Council differed little from that of the old, and it was unlikely

that any individual Minister who might be appointed would have the support of a majority. A discussion of the provisions of the Rural Primary Education Bill might have provided an opportunity for groups in the Council to rise above personalities; but on the Government motion that the Bill be taken into consideration the Swarajists moved an amendment to refer the Bill to a Select Committee and secured the support of several Muhammadan waverers by the simple manœuvre of adding the waverers' names to the Committee they proposed. This brought the session to an early end without the discovery of any combination of groups strong enough to form a Ministry.

Appointment of Ministers.

9. The difficulty of finding a Ministry acceptable to all sections of the non-Swarajist members of the Council persisted, and ultimately His Excellency the Governor after the end of the Session appointed as Ministers Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Kazi Golam Mohiuddin Faroqui and Mr. Khwaja Najimuddin, C.I.E. Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray had proved his ability as the first elected President of the Legislative Council, whilst the two Muhammadan Ministers had had practical experience of administration in the spheres of local self-government, one being the Chairman of the Tippera District Board and the other the Chairman of the Dacca Municipality. Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray was at once denounced by the Swarajists on the ground that at the time of the election he had undertaken not to support a Ministry; and Mr. Fazlul Huq made no secret of his disappointment and hostility to the new Ministers. His angry declaration that the entire Praja Party had been ignored with typical bureaucratic indifference, sufficient to goad the party to desperation, made it clear that abuse of the bureaucracy was to be made the cloak for an attack on yet another Ministry which did not contain Mr. Fazlul Huq.

Bengal Congress Party.

10. The dispute between Mr. J. M. Sen Gupta and Mr. Subhas Bose for the leadership of the Swarajist Party in Bengal led to an open quarrel during the elections of delegates to the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee. When the Committee was elected in November Mr. Bose and his followers won by a small margin of votes; but an appeal was lodged with the All-India Congress Committee on the ground that some of the delegates had not been properly elected and was not decided at the end of the year. The dispute was personal and was chiefly due to the ambition of Mr. Bose to replace Mr. Sen Gupta both as Mayor of the Calcutta Corporation and as leader of the Swarajist Party; but there was also an underlying difference in outlook, if not in policy. In the session of the Congress in Calcutta at the end of 1928, Mr. Sen Gupta had professed to see in

"Dominion Status" a means for the furtherance of the ideal of independence. In the first hours of the new year Mr. Subhas Bose's amendment demanding complete independence was defeated, and Mr. Gandhi succeeded in carrying his compromise resolution approving the constitution proposed by the Nehru Committee, threatening non-co-operation if it were not accepted by the end of the year 1929, and in the meantime permitting propaganda for complete independence to be carried on in the name of the Congress. Mr. Bose throughout the year maintained the same attitude; he has been a consistent advocate of revolution—social, economic and political. He has been strongly attracted by the idea of using Labour as a political force. He was the leader in the strike of the workers in the Budge Budge oil depôts and has endeavoured to form other trade unions. In revolutionary youth and discontented labour he professes to see the instruments for the achievement of independence. When in the Lahore Congress at the end of the year Mr. Gandhi moved his resolution declaring complete independence to be the goal of Congress and enjoining the boycott of legislative bodies, Mr. Bose sought to make the resolution fiercer by demanding a campaign for the setting up of a parallel government in India and advocated civil disobedience, non-payment of taxes, general strikes, and the organisation of youths, workers and peasants for these purposes; he wished to add the boycott of local bodies and law courts to the boycott of Legislative Councils. Mr. Sen Gupta has professed a policy more allied to that of Mr. Gandhi, and supported his resolution in the Lahore Congress. Earlier in the year he had announced his conviction that preparations for mass civil disobedience would be impossible so long as the Councils were not boycotted, and had condemned Mr. Bose for combining with his programme of complete independence the desire to remain in the Legislative Council. In other respects his policy differs little from that of his rival. He cares not whether the objective be called independence or Dominion Status; but whatever be the name, he wants "completely free national government." In such a government he sees the only remedy for the economic problems of the masses and the middle class. Although he has taken a less active interest in exploiting Labour for political purposes, he too looks for the achievement of his political hopes in the combination of Labour and the intelligentsia. During the strikes in the jute mills he appealed to the young men of Bengal to go to the mill areas in their thousands and help the mill hands in their fight, and has urged youthful audiences to go forth and rouse the masses from their age-long stupor. Mr. Bose exhorts Youth and Students' Associations to die fearlessly for the sake of the country; and Mr. Sen Gupta bids them jump

into the surging tide regardless of consequences. And both leaders have at times shown alarm lest youth should take them at their word.

11. Youth associations and students' associations have been multiplied in all parts of Bengal, and leaders, great and small, have competed with each other for the control of these organisations. The number of political speeches addressed to youth conferences of various kinds has been surprising, and in almost all meetings of a political colour youths and school boys have formed the greater part of the audience. The flattery with which these youthful audiences have been cajoled is amazing. Mr. Subhas Bose's presidential address to the Central Provinces Provincial Youth Conference at the end of November is typical of many such addresses in Bengal. "We are passing," he said, "through a critical stage in our national history, and it is the duty of all youths to put their heads together in order to determine our future course of action. I consider it to be a most hopeful sign of the times that the youths of the Central Provinces, without looking up for lead or guidance from our elders, should of their own initiative assemble for the purpose of solving, or attempting to solve, the fundamental problems of our national life. If I can in some measure contribute to the success of your noble endeavour I shall consider myself fortunate and my efforts amply rewarded." Mr. Sen Gupta has used language of equal exuberance. At the end of September, when excitement was at its height owing to the demonstrations aroused by the death and funeral procession of Jatindra Nath Das, a Congress worker from south Calcutta, who as an under-trial prisoner starved himself to death in Lahore jail, Mr. Sen Gupta, as President of the Jalpaiguri District Youth Conference, addressed his youthful audience in these words:—"Young men of Bengal, a great field of action lies before you. Jump into the surging tide regardless of consequences. You will have to snap the shackles of social bondage and march forward with indomitable courage. This is a thrice-told tale, but like the *mantram* of a devotee be inspired with new strength. Realise the agony of dependence. Awaken the masses who are unable to give vent to their pent-up agony. The future of the country depends on the awakening of the feeling. Tread the path that has been lightened by Jatindra Nath and help the country in its forward march, and success is sure to be yours." Youth movement.

12. It is true that speeches of this kind may be discounted as being the efforts of rival leaders to attract to themselves the support of the youthful element so important in Congress politics in Bengal. But the harm done by the speeches of acknowledged

leaders was reinforced and amplified in many other ways—by lectures with and without the help of the magic lantern, by virulent articles and stories in newspapers, magazines and pamphlets, and by the persuasion of individuals. The nature of the ideas which the Congress Party has seen fit to instil into the minds of the youth of Bengal may be illustrated by the All-Bengal Khadi Exhibition held in Calcutta in October, at which the main features were magic lantern lectures denouncing the Government and advocating revolutionary ideas, posters with revolutionary slogans, portraits of revolutionary heroes, including several hanged for murder, charts designed to show the exploitation of India by the British, and exhibitions of dagger and lathi play.

Effects of youth movement.

13. When it is remembered that in Bengal the struggle for a livelihood amongst middle-class people is acute and employment difficult to obtain, and that a large number of students live in an atmosphere of poverty, conscious that in spite of the education they are receiving the hope of employment is uncertain, it is not surprising that the persistent effort to attract young men to revolutionary politics has been successful. One of its most marked effects has been on the discipline in schools and colleges, the chief symptom being a readiness for students to go on strike on the slightest provocation and to show their political sympathies by staying away from school or college to attend political demonstrations. A noteworthy instance of this was the strike in September organised by members of the All-Bengal Students' Association to express sympathy with the students of the Presidency College and St. Xavier's College, where strikes had begun in protest against disciplinary action taken by the authorities. Processions of students went round to the colleges and by midday almost all the colleges were closed. In this instance the authorities stood firm and the strike collapsed in a few days; but other cases, in which the college authorities have had to give way, have drawn attention to the difficulty in enforcing discipline in colleges which depend for their existence on the fees received from students.

14. In spite of the prominence which Press and politicians have given to youth movements and student associations, it must not be supposed that the whole student community has been affected by revolutionary propaganda and by the subversion of discipline which has accompanied it. The Muhammadan students have almost entirely remained aloof and have taken little part in political demonstrations. Over Hindu students the Congress politician has established a wider ascendancy; the extreme brand of politics is the popular brand, and it is not easy in any country for the school-boy to go against the fashion. But no great success

has been achieved by the efforts to recruit volunteers, and there have been some indications that parents are beginning to object to the youth movement. The scheming of political leaders who try to capture youth associations was scathingly denounced by the outspoken President of the North Calcutta Youth Conference in November. About the same time the Secretary of the All-Bengal Students' Association protested against Mr. Subhas Bose's attempts to use the youth movement for political purposes, and in particular against his proposal to declare a strike in all schools and colleges from the beginning of 1930. The strength behind the protest was shown by the fact that a rival organisation was promptly started with the support of *Liberty*, and by the end of the year Mr. Subhas Bose had placed yet another schism to his record.

15. The ill effects of the revolutionary politicians' appeal to youth were not confined to the harm done to schools and colleges. Practice in the use of dagger and lathi was not regarded as inconsistent with the creed of non-violence, and revolutionary groups which advocated terrorism received every encouragement from Congress leaders. It is, indeed, difficult in most districts to distinguish between the activities of the Congress Committee and those of youth associations and revolutionary organisations such as the Anusilan and Jugantar. Whilst the attitude of the leaders appears to have been that the time for violence has not yet come, the disposition towards violence has been shown by deeds as well as by words. On the 10th March a Sub-Inspector of Police at Barisal was fatally stabbed by a student who was a member of a youth association, many members of which were subsequently bound over to be of good behaviour. Every assistance was given to this gang by Congress leaders, and the utmost capital was made out of the hunger-strike carried on by its leader and some of the other accused in Barisal jail. Other cases of stabbing also showed the harm done by the adoption of dagger play as the principal amusement of youth associations. Most of these cases were due to feuds between different groups, the most striking case being at Chittagong where, during the heat of the elections to the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee, a youth was fatally stabbed, and a large number of daggers ordered by one of the parties from a local factory were seized by the police. In September seven youths armed with revolvers and daggers attempted to rob the mail motor lorry on the Rajshahi-Natore Road, and in December, shortly before the attempt on the Viceroy's train near Delhi, the arrest in Calcutta of a youth in possession of a bombshell showed that the cult of the bomb still persists in Bengal.

Other activities of Congress Party.

16. In other directions the activities of the Congress Party have been less successful. The cult of khaddar and the boycott of foreign cloth have not aroused any enthusiasm in Bengal and this part of the Congress programme has received but spasmodic attention. In Bankura district and in a part of Jessore district attacks were made on union boards, but these were local efforts and did not receive much support from the Provincial Congress Committee. The recruitment of members of the Congress was carried on with more vigour and success than in the previous year, but from the figures published in September by the Secretary of the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee it appeared that only 52,283 were recruited against the quota of 124,403 demanded by the All-India Congress Committee.

Congress Party and depressed classes.

17. In Bengal the disabilities of the lower castes are almost confined to religious and social matters, and the main line on which the Congress party have endeavoured to carry out the removal of untouchability has been by supporting the claims of the lower castes to enter Hindu temples. As in such cases the law may require the local authorities to protect the rights of those in possession, these incidents have enabled the Congress agents to misrepresent Government and its officials as unfriendly to the depressed classes, while themselves posing as their friends.

Muhammadans and politics.

18. Except in matters in which Muhammadan interests are involved or religious questions are raised, Muhammadans have taken little part in political demonstrations, and it is not easy to define the general attitude of the community to which more than half the population belongs. The lack of leaders, generally acceptable to the community and strong enough to lead it, has prevented the Muhammadans in Bengal from exercising an influence in political life commensurate with their numbers. There is a section, probably small in numbers but not without influence, especially in the Press, which sympathises with Congress aims and desires independence of the British Empire or at least Dominion Status and full responsible government. About a third of the members returned to the Council at the election in June belong to this section. There is another larger section which does not think that the time for such a change has come, although its confidence in the administration has been shaken since the system was changed in 1921. Both sections are averse to Hindu supremacy, but this feeling dominates the attitude of the larger section. It is illustrated by the Minute of Dissent recorded by Bengal's Muhammadan representative on the Indian Central Committee. The larger section have been in favour of working the present constitution, though they have found it difficult to agree about the personnel of a Ministry. A group in the Council

have found a bond of union in the agricultural interests of the tenant as against the landlord and under the leadership of Maulvi Fazlul Huq have formed a "Praja" Party to uphold these interests in the Council. In affairs outside the province considerable interest was taken by Muhammadans generally in recent events in Afghanistan. Sympathy was with King Amanullah and Nadir Khan's victory over Bachha-i-Sakao was welcomed, though there was some regret when he became King himself instead of restoring King Amanullah to the throne. The disturbances in Palestine between Jews and Arabs aroused some interest, and several meetings were held to express sympathy with the latter. On the Sarda Act which raised the legal age for marriage opinions differed. It was disliked by the more conservative section, which professed that its provisions offended against custom sanctified by religion. It was supported by the radical group which in this and other matters followed the lead of the Congress.

Depressed classes.

19. The election showed signs of the development of the claim of those castes, which are loosely classified as depressed but make up more than half of the Hindu population, to a greater share in political power. In several districts the vote of these classes was important, and in one or two constituencies decided the result. Ordinarily the tendency in the upward struggle of a lower caste is for the individual caste to claim a higher rank in the Hindu social scale, but recently the largest of these castes, the Namasudra, has adopted a sturdier attitude and its leaders have laid less stress on the social rank of their own caste than on the claim of all classes to a general equality of rights. As most of their people are poor they have advocated adult suffrage, though for men only, as one means of securing that equality.

Europeans and politics.

20. In the European group, or rather among Europeans generally, there has been a marked tendency to accept the opinion that the time has come for a more complete transference of political power to Indians. This opinion is qualified by the condition that peace and the fair administration of justice must be maintained, but is combined with a willingness to accept any scheme of Government which the various Indian communities may agree in accepting and would be ready to work. Expression was given to this view of the situation in the ready welcome given to the Viceroy's Declaration of the 29th October and its proposal for a round table conference. It is due perhaps less to an optimistic faith in constitutional experiments than to a feeling that the present system is not adapted to the needs of the country and weariness with the futile political wranglings of recent years. This attitude was apparent in the declaration of the leader of

the European group during the debate on the motion of no-confidence in the Ministers, which made it clear that the European group would not in future be willing to bolster up a Ministry which had not sufficient support in the Council to make it stable, and again in the comments made on His Excellency the Governor's announcement at the end of November that he proposed again to appoint Ministers. A similar tendency to adopt a more positive and independent line in other matters besides those in which business interests are involved was shown in the debate on a resolution for the introduction of compulsory physical training and military drill in schools and colleges, and again on the demand for the grant for the Forest Department, when the European group voted in a body against Government, not out of sympathy with the reasons behind the proposed cut, but as a protest against the smallness of the grant proposed for the Forest Department.

Communal relations.

21. The year was fortunately free from any serious communal disturbance. At Kharagpur where the foreign labour population, both Hindu and Muhammadan, has shown itself to be easily inflammable, there were dangerous incidents which gave cause for anxiety during June and July, and the police force was strengthened; but the maintenance of additional police at the expense of the residents at Kharagpur has had a good effect, and no outbreak followed the incidents. As an illustration of the petty causes that may lead to trouble, it may be recorded that in August thousands of Muhammadans and Namasudras assembled on the border of Bakarganj and Khulna districts to do battle over the discovery of a secret marriage between a Namasudra widow and a Muhammadan; but the clash was prevented by the prompt and plucky action of a Sub-Inspector of Police. The cause of the trouble was solved by a divorce and the marriage of the woman the next day to a Namasudra. A more serious matter was a display of bad feeling between the two communities in Calcutta in August, when a meeting of Hindus held under the auspices of the Hindu Maha Sabha to discuss the question of the abduction of women and a counter-meeting of Muhammadans to protest against the speeches made at the Hindu meeting were followed by violent and offensive articles in the Press. Warnings to editors and the prevalence of good sense prevented any further development of the feud. Good sense also prevailed earlier in the year when excitement over a football match between European and Indian teams led to a clash between the spectators. The incident threatened to cause a lasting feud between the Indian Football Association and the Indian clubs, but the quarrel was happily settled by the concession of equal representation on the Council of the Association to European and Indian clubs.

22. The Press reflected the political developments of the year. Of the Indian papers the *Bengalee* and *Sanjivani* were still the leading papers to represent the moderate Hindu view, continuing to advocate Dominion Status as the political goal and criticising strongly the efforts of the Congress leaders in Bengal to exploit Labour and students for political purposes. Among the papers advocating the various brands of Congress politics there was an increasing tendency towards violent writing and several papers openly professed to advocate revolution—social economic and political. Of some it may be said that they did their best to show that the repeal of the old Press Act was a mistake and that, with a sufficient supply of fighting editors to replace those sent to jail, the present law of sedition may be ignored. The number of prosecutions in respect of seditious speeches and writings rose during the year to thirty-six. Of the twenty-three which were decided only one ended in acquittal; one was withdrawn on the offender submitting an apology; the rest ended in conviction. These results show that prosecutions were instituted only in cases in which the grounds were strong. The Press.

23. The feud between the leaders of the Congress Party in Bengal was reproduced in the Press. Mr. Subhas Bose had the advantage of controlling *Forward* and the vernacular papers associated with it, and when these papers were brought to an end by the decree for damages of Rs. 1½ lakhs obtained by the Secretary of State and the East Indian Railway in respect of a defamatory letter, Mr. Bose produced *Liberty* and other papers to replace them. Until the end of December, when *Advance* made its appearance, Mr. Sen Gupta controlled no paper, but he received considerable support from the *Basumati* and other papers. Mr. Subhas Bose resented the election of Mr. Sen Gupta as Mayor of the Calcutta Corporation and the feud in the Press began in April with articles in *Forward* reflecting on the administration of the Corporation. From October onwards the quarrel was as open in the Press as it was elsewhere.

Legislative Council.

24. The Legislative Council sat for only thirty days during the year, a number considerably less than in any other year since the Reforms of 1921. Fourteen days were spent on the general discussion of the Budget and in voting the demands; two days were taken up by the motion of no-confidence in the Ministers, which has been already mentioned; and at the short meeting in Sessions.

July the Governor addressed the new Council and the President and Deputy President were elected. A day was spent on a motion for the adjournment of the House to discuss the strike in the jute mills, an account of which is given elsewhere. The Council spent only eleven days in the consideration of Government and private Bills and resolutions.

Rural Primary Education Bill.

25. It was the hope of Government to get the Bengal Rural Primary Education Bill considered and passed during August and September. The Bill had been revised in the light of the proceedings of the Select Committee which considered the Bill introduced in the old Council; but primary education receives more support in the abstract than in the concrete; the Swarajists, who disliked the Bill and opposed it on the ground that it was too restricted to be of any use, succeeded by the device already recounted in postponing an issue on which their party was likely to be divided, and once again the Bill was sent to a Select Committee, consisting this time of no less than forty-five members. The constitution of this Committee illustrated the defective nature of the procedure governing the consideration of bills, inasmuch as, unless the member in charge himself moves for reference to a Select Committee, it is possible to have a bill considered by a Committee nominated by an opponent of the bill, packed for a particular purpose and not representative of the Council.

Other Government Bills.

26. Other Government measures considered by the Council during the year were of minor importance. The Bengal State Aid to Industries Bill was thrown out when a motion by the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture and Industries to refer the Bill to a Select Committee was defeated by a vote of forty-two against forty-one. The Bill was opposed with a view to keeping alive the more comprehensive Bill of a Swarajist member, Babu Nalini Ranjan Sarkar. Bills to amend the Calcutta Suburban Police Act and the protection of Muhammadan Pilgrims Act, 1896, were passed in February, and the Bengal Children Act in August, all without opposition.

Private Bills.

27. Of the private Bills which came before the Council during the year, the Bengal Village Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, which sought to destroy the control of the District Magistrate over the village police, was of interest as being the first private Bill to be returned to the Council by the Governor under section 81-A of the Government of India Act with amendments for consideration. The amendments were carried by substantial majorities, and the member in charge did not respond to the call of the President to move the motion that the Bill, as amended, be passed.

28. The report of the Select Committee on the Indian Universities (Bengal Amendment) Bill, 1928, was presented in February. On the assurance that Government were preparing a Bill, Dr. Pramatha Nath Banerjee postponed the motion that the Bill be taken into consideration till the next session of the Council. He re-introduced it in August in the new Council, but it made no further progress. Other bills introduced in the old Council and dying with it were the Bengal Industrial Development Bill of Babu Nalini Ranjan Sarkar, the Prevention of Dangerous Diseases Bill of Dr. Kumud Sankar Ray, the Bengal Pasture Bill and Bengal Cattle Bill of Babu Jatindra Nath Chakravarti and the Calcutta Rent Bill of Babu Jitendra Lal Banerjee. A Bill to amend the Calcutta Municipal Act so as to exclude certain areas from Calcutta, on the lines of an old bill passed by the Council in 1926 and disallowed by the Governor, was introduced in August, but was circulated for opinion.

Resolutions.

29. No less than eighty-three resolutions were put on the list of business in the spring session and sixty-five in the autumn session, but of them only thirteen and two were discussed—a fact which indicates the waste of labour in the departments of Government involved in the preparation for resolutions which fail to reach the stage of discussion. The more important of those which were debated were concerned with the formation of committees to enquire into river steamer services and into the conditions of labour, the reconstitution of the governing body of the State Medical Faculty on a more popular basis, and compulsory physical training and military drill in schools and colleges.

Questions.

30. Questions were many, and the right to ask supplementary questions was greatly abused. Some members seemed to forget that they were not engaged in cross-examining prosecution witnesses in the court of a magistrate of little experience. The rule is in wide terms and only requires that a supplementary question shall be for the purpose of further elucidating any matter of fact regarding which an answer has been given; it is not easy for the President to decide whether the question properly arises, and members of Government are disinclined to raise points of order.

Demands for grants.

31. The discussion of the demands for grants suffered from the same lack of moderation and discrimination, and there were no less than seven hundred and eighty-six motions on the agenda paper. Very many of these were not moved and many more fell under the guillotine. The only cut of a substantial amount was that made in the demand for Forests with a view to refuse the

expenditure required for the management by the Forests Department of private forests in Tangail subdivision. In this instance the European group supported the motion in order to protest against the insufficiency of the grant proposed for expenditure on Forests. The remaining cuts were all of a token character and the demands were passed in full. On the whole, the debates were dull. The Congress Party had little chance of securing a majority for any substantial cut, a fact which they partly attributed to the unwillingness of aspirants to the Ministry to vote against Government. In the debate on Ministers' salaries, the leader of the party, Mr. Sen Gupta, professed to find in the action of Government in making the demand before Ministers were appointed an act subversive of the constitution.

Results of divisions.

32. The results of divisions are of interest as showing the difficulties under the present constitutional scheme, in which one part of Government, and during the greater part of the year under review the whole Government, has had to work with a Legislative Council to which it is not responsible, in the elections to which it takes no part and which may or may not support it. In the three divisions on Government Bills, in which Government participated, Government was each time defeated; but was successful on all the five occasions on which a division was taken on a non-official Bill. Eight resolutions were carried against Government opposition and Government succeeded in only three divisions. In the votes on grants, Government suffered ten defeats but won twenty-seven divisions. To give a correct impression of these results, however, it should be added that generally speaking the defeats were inflicted when no serious result was likely to follow.

Industrial Disputes.

Jute mill strikes.

33. A motion for the adjournment of the House on the 9th August drew the attention of the Legislative Council to the serious strikes in the jute mills, which had begun early in July and were to last till the middle of September.

Causes of the strikes.

34. The immediate cause of these strikes was the putting into force on the 1st July of a decision of the Indian Jute Mills Association, reached towards the end of 1928, to raise the working hours of all mills from fifty-four to sixty a week, the chief reason for this decision being increased competition from Continental mills. The root of the trouble was an attempt on the part of the mills to alter the previous bonus rate so as to give piece-workers, particularly weavers, an increase in wages exactly proportionate to the extra hours worked. Time workers, who had been promised this *pro rata* increase, were apparently satisfied when the new

system was introduced, and at the beginning of the strike weavers took the lead. The strike broke out in single-shift mills, but the double-shift mills soon joined. In these mills the payment of *khoraki*, a subsistence allowance introduced after the War to compensate workers for a short working week, was an additional complication, as double-shift mills on the new system were working one full and one part week alternately.

Course of the strikes.

35. For the first two weeks the dispute was confined to two groups of mills in Bhatpara and Jagatdal. At first the workers simply refused to work more than fifty-four hours a week and the mills continued to work. But from the 22nd July the weavers adopted the plan of turning out only half their usual work. They persisted in this, although the managing agents of the affected mills agreed to restore the old scale of bonus, and the mills were closed down. The trouble then spread rapidly, and by the 13th August all the mills north of Calcutta except one were on strike; two of the mills south of Calcutta were out, and in spite of the energetic action taken by the authorities in Hooghly district to prevent intimidation, two mills on that side of the river were also involved.

36. On the 9th August, Dr. Bidhan Chandra Ray's motion for adjournment was discussed in the Legislative Council and carried. Moderate speeches were made both by members of the Swaraj Party, who supported the motion and urged Government to set up a Court of Enquiry under the Trade Disputes Act, and by European members who defended the policy of the mills. The attitude of the Government was that negotiations were in progress between some of the parties and that nothing should be said which would jeopardise the chance of peace. These negotiations were infructuous, but on the 16th August a settlement was effected on terms negotiated on the intervention of Government between the Indian Jute Mills Association, Miss Das Gupta, President of the Bengal Jute Workers' Union and the most influential leader in the strike, and the Kankinarrah Labour Union, the only registered trade union of jute mill employees. The terms included the restoration of the former scale of bonus, and the payment of a proportionate increase to time workers for the extra hours worked. *Khoraki* was to be paid on the pre-strike scale, and the Committee of the Jute Mill Association agreed to recommend to its members the constitution of maternity benefit schemes. By the morning of the 20th all the mills which had been on strike had resumed work.

37. This however did not end the trouble, as a series of strikes followed in mills which had hitherto defied all the efforts of the strike leaders and now went on strike in spite of the efforts

of Miss Das Gupta and the Bengal Jute Workers' Union to prevent them. In view of the fact that the terms of settlement applied to all mills alike except the few not controlled by members of the Association, these later strikes can only be attributed to an unreasoning fear on the part of the workers that unless they struck work they would not get the benefit of the settlement. The two chief centres of this new trouble were the mills between Chandernagore and Serampore on the right bank of the Hooghly and mills in the Budge Budge area. Most of these strikes were of short duration, but those in the Budge Budge area did not collapse till the 11th September.

Features of the strikes.

38. The strike was remarkable for the apparent ease with which a general stoppage was brought about in all but one of the many mills north of the city on the Calcutta side of the river, and for the fact that it was controlled by a lady, Miss Probhabati Das Gupta, President of the Bengal Jute Workers' Union, who financed the strike, and ultimately got the strikers back to work. A rumour was prevalent that speculators in the jute market had contributed to strike funds. After the strike the union split in two, and in a press squabble which followed it was admitted that large sums had been spent on the strike. Miss Das Gupta, however, beyond saying that she did have funds, did not give any indication of the source from which they came.

39. Whilst the facts that the registered Kankinarrah Labour Union had little influence on the strike and that the new Bengal Jute Workers' Union showed early signs of disintegration suggest that the strike did little to assist in the formation of strong labour unions based on the steady support of workers, it strengthened the tendency on the side of the employers towards closer combination which has been apparent in recent years. Before the strike, the jute mills had maintained an attitude of strong individualism in the management of their internal affairs, especially in the matter of wages, and the Indian Jute Mills Association had concerned itself only with the broader commercial conditions. The general nature of the strike, however, not only for the first time compelled Government intervention on the industrial side; it also led the mills to entrust their Association with negotiations which resulted in the settlement of terms governing the adjustment of wages.

Strike in oil depôts.

40. A strike of a different character began towards the end of August in the oil depôts at Budge Budge where about 4,000 men are employed by the Burma Shell, the Standard and the Indo-Burma Petroleum Companies. The strike was not due to any local dispute but was instigated by Mr. Subhas Chandra

Bose in support of a strike in a tin-plate factory at Golmuri, Jamshedpur, in which he had interested himself. The only connection between the oil depôts and the tin-plate factory was the interest in both owned by the Burma Shell Company; but a Budge Budge Oil and Petrol Workers' Union, with Mr. Bose as President, was created, a set of demands including the settlement of the tin-plate strike and a large increase in wages was put forward, and the workers were induced to come out when the strike in the Budge Budge jute mills began. The jute mills resumed work on the 11th September but the strike in the oil depôts dragged on until the 21st November, when a small wage concession was granted and most of the old workers were taken on again. Almost 200,000 working days were lost.

Finance in 1928-29.

Budget.

41. The opening balance for the year 1928-29 was calculated to be Rs. 1,88,27,000 in the original budget estimate for 1928-29. The anticipated receipts and expenditure on revenue account alone were Rs. 10,94,11,000 and Rs. 11,19,62,000, respectively, indicating a deficit of Rs. 25,51,000, the bulk of the deficit being due to provision for new non-recurring expenditure. A sum of Rs. 5,90,000 was provided for new recurring expenditure and Rs. 10,26,000 for non-recurring expenditure; of this total amount of Rs. 16,16,000 allocated for new expenditure a sum of Rs. 9,12,000 was allotted to the Transferred Departments.

42. The estimated closing balance for the year 1928-29 was Rs. 1,45,16,000 but the actual closing balance was Rs. 2,23,09,000. The improvement was mainly due to the fact that the actual opening balance of 1928-29 turned out to be Rs. 2,19,52,000, and was thus better by Rs. 31,25,000 than the original estimated opening balance. Other causes of this large closing balance were the improvement of actual revenue for the year by about Rs. 4 lakhs and decrease in expenditure by about Rs. 30 lakhs compared with the original forecasts of revenue and expenditure.

Actual revenue.

43. In the original budget estimate the receipts on revenue account were estimated at Rs. 10,94,11,000 but the actual revenue receipts amounted to Rs. 10,98,66,000. On the whole anticipations proved fairly accurate, but there were fluctuations under some of the major heads. The receipts under "Land revenue" were higher by nearly Rs. 4¾ lakhs, mainly on account of better collections in temporarily-settled estates and estates under direct management,

the biggest increase being in the district of Chittagong, where revisional settlement operations were nearing completion. This increase was almost counterbalanced by a drop in revenue of more than Rs. 4 lakhs under "Excise" due to a decrease in consumption of country spirit and pachwai caused by drought and scarcity in parts of the province. Among other variations may be mentioned a fall of nearly Rs. 4 lakhs under 'Forests,' attributed to exploitation being restricted in order to conserve the forests prior to the introduction of a new working system. Under the head "XVI.—Interest," there was an increase of nearly Rs. 2¾ lakhs, partly due to the interest paid by the Government of India on the loan of Rs. 15 lakhs given by this Government to the Chittagong Port, since declared to be a major port, and partly to accrued interest on the fixed deposit of Rs. 50 lakhs with the Government of India.

Outside the revenue account, against the budget estimate of Rs. 39,00,000 for "Advances from the Provincial Loans Fund" the actual requirements were found to be Rs. 32,25,000. The reduction was due to delay in the receipt of dragline excavators for the Damodar Canal, slow progress in the construction of the new Council Chamber and the inability of the railway authorities to spend in full the budget grant for the construction of roadways and footpaths on the Bally Bridge.

Under "Loans and Advances by the Bengal Government," the actual receipts were Rs. 27,24,000 against the budgeted estimate of Rs. 10,88,000.

This change was due to the adjustment with the Government of India of the loan of Rs. 15 lakhs for the Port of Chittagong.

Actual expenditure.

44. The budget estimate for 1928-29 on revenue account as originally passed in Council was for an expenditure of Rs. 11,19,62,000; this was later on augmented by supplementary grants from time to time aggregating Rs. 12,41,000. Against the net grant of Rs. 11,32,03,000 the actual expenditure amounted to Rs. 10,90,37,000, resulting in a saving of Rs. 41,66,000. The supplementary grants were chiefly in connection with the revision of pay of the subordinate ranks of the Calcutta and Bengal Police and of the Warder establishment of the Jails Department; additional grants were also found necessary for "Famine relief" and for adjustment of charges under "Superannuation allowances and pensions." The savings were due to various causes. Large savings occurred under "Land revenue" owing to the inability of the Aerial Survey Company to complete their work before the

close of the financial year. The full amount provided for the revision of the pay of certain ranks of the Calcutta and Bengal Police and of the Jail Warder establishment was not utilized owing chiefly to a large number of vacancies. Under "Education" building grants were not spent in full. In the Medical Department the payment of the non-recurring grant of Rs. 50,000 to the Calcutta Medical Institute was postponed till 1929-30 owing to the non-compliance of the authorities of the Institute with certain conditions for payment, and the Bihar and Orissa Government did not work up to the full budget grant for the Indian Mental Hospital at Kankee. Non-utilization in full of the grants for public health purposes and of the provision for the purchase of anti-cholera vaccine, which is now being manufactured in Government laboratories, account for large savings under the head "Public health." The inability of the Public Works Department to work up to the full programme of building works accounts for the savings under "Civil works." Considerable savings accrued against the sanctioned estimate for "Expenditure in England" because fewer officers went on leave.

45. Beyond the maintenance of a uniform system in the classification of expenditure by the disbursing officers and the Accountant-General, Bengal, no further progress was made in the direction of "watching of expenditure" against sanctioned allotments. **Control of expenditure.**

Part II

CHAPTER I.—PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

For—.

Physical features of the country, area, climate and chief staples.

Historical summary.

Forms of Administration.

Character of Land Tenures and system of Surveys and Settlement.

Civil Divisions of British Territory.

Details of the last census.

See—

General Administration Report for 1921-22, Part II, pages 1—141.

Changes in Administration.

The Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur, C.I.E., of Dhanbari, a Member of the Bengal Executive Council, died on the 17th April 1929. He was succeeded by the Hon'ble Hadji Sir Abdel Kerim Abu Ahmad Khan Ghuznavi, Kt., who was appointed to be a temporary Member on the 22nd April, and a permanent Member on the 6th June 1929.

2. The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. Moberly, C.I.E., I.C.S., succeeded the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri as Vice-President of the Bengal Executive Council.

3. The Hon'ble Mr. Alexander Marr, C.I.E., I.C.S., a Member of the Bengal Executive Council, was granted leave for four months from the 5th May 1929, and the Hon'ble Mr. M. C. McAlpin, C.I.E., I.C.S., was appointed to be a temporary Member in his place. This arrangement continued for a further period of two months by which the Hon'ble Mr. Marr's leave was extended by the Secretary of State in Council.

4. On the appointment of the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mitter, Minister, as a Member of the Executive Council on the 31st July 1928, the Hon'ble Minister Nawab Musharraf Hossain, Khan Bahadur, administered all the Transferred Subjects from

that date until the 13th October 1928, when the Hon'ble Raja Bhupendra Narayan Sinha Bahadur, of Nashipur, who was appointed a Minister, assumed charge.

5. Motions of no confidence in the Ministers having been passed by the Bengal Legislative Council, the Hon'ble Nawab Musharraf Hossain, Khan Bahadur, and Raja Bhupendra Narayan Sinha Bahadur, of Nashipur, resigned their offices on the 22nd February 1929. His Excellency the Governor thereupon assumed charge of the Transferred Departments under the Transferred Subjects (Temporary Administration) Rules.

Relations with the Tributary States and Frontier Affairs.

(a) COOCH BEHAR.

[Annual Administration Report of the Cooch Behar State for the year 1928-29.]

Area—1,318 square miles; population—592,489; chief products—rice, jute, tobacco and mustard seed; military force—305 men; present Maharaja—His Highness Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur.

6. His Highness was in England for education the most of the year. He returned to Cooch Behar on the 7th February 1929, but left for England again early in April.

7. The Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division is the Political Agent. Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. Hutchinson, O.B.E., was the Vice-President of the Council of Regency throughout the year.

Financial.

8. The actual revenue and expenditure of the State amounted to Rs. 41,66,139 and Rs. 38,93,993 against Rs. 41,58,104 and Rs. 37,33,985, respectively, of the previous year. There was again a substantial surplus.

State Railway.

9. The gross earnings of the Cooch Behar State Railway amounted to Rs. 5,63,677 and the net earnings to Rs. 3,05,103, which was again an improvement on last year's figures. The percentage of working expenses on gross earnings was Rs. 45·87 against Rs. 46·00 in the preceding year.

Crops and condition of the people.

10. The total rainfall during the year was 132·80 inches, the normal rainfall being 135·98 inches. The rain was unevenly distributed and both paddy and jute were adversely affected to a considerable extent. The price of jute was low, and there was again a slight decrease in the price of common rice which ranged from Rs. 5-12 to Rs. 7-8 per maund.

11. There were two severe epidemics of cholera and small-pox, but otherwise the general health was fair. Public Health.

12. The number of higher English schools rose from 4 to 5, primary schools from 294 to 298. The number of Middle English and Middle Vernacular schools remained at 52. There was again a decrease in the number of students in the Victoria College. Education.

(b) TRIPURA.

[Annual Administration Report of the Tripura State for the year 1928-29.]

Area—4,116 square miles; population —304,437; chief products—paddy, cotton, til, mustard seed, jute and sugarcane; military force—306 men; present Maharaja—His Highness Maharaja Manikya Bir Bikram Kishore Deb Barman Bahadur.

13. The marriage of the Maharaja with the sister of the Maharaja of Balrampur was celebrated at Balrampur on the 16th January 1929. His Highness resided at Agartala for the greater part of the year.

14. Mr. H. W. Lyne, I.C.S., continued as Political Agent up to the 4th November 1928, when he was succeeded by Mr. F. W. Robertson, I.C.S. Political Agent.

15. The income from the State was Rs. 19,46,421 and from the Zamindaries Rs. 10,99,010. With the opening balance of Rs. 10,23,665 and other items the total receipts were Rs. 43,29,437 against last year's figure of Rs. 45,80,156. The total expenditure during the year amounted to Rs. 33,68,764 against Rs. 35,56,491 of the previous year. The year closed with a balance of Rs. 9,60,673. Financial.

16. The average rainfall of the year was 87·67 inches, the quinquennial average being 96·91 inches. The rainfall was unevenly distributed and was on the whole unfavourable to crops. The tea industry flourished, but the trade in cotton, oil-seeds and jute suffered from diminished production. Rice sold at from Rs. 4 to Rs. 7-4. Crops and condition of the people.

17. During the year there were 80 deaths from cholera and 65 from small-pox. Of 128 persons treated for kala-azar, 105 were cured. Including sanitary charges, the total expenditure on the Medical Department in the year was Rs. 73,725 as against Rs. 79,597 in the preceding year. Public Health.

Protection.

18. The total number of cases reported to the police was 1,336 against 1,377 in the previous year. The number of persons arrested was 964, out of which 821 were sent up for trial. Recovery of stolen property was unsatisfactory, the percentage being 21·8 against 46·33 of the previous year.

Education.

19. Including 5 High English schools the total number of schools during the year was 168 against 170 in the previous year. The number of pupils rose to 7,345 from 6,848. The total expenditure on Education was Rs. 1,33,106.

Condition of the People.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1928-29.]

20. During the year under review there was no widespread natural calamity, but a breach of a Public Works Department embankment at Dokanda in the district of Midnapore and heavy erosion by the river Padma in the southern part of the district of Dacca caused much loss locally. The weather conditions were generally favourable and the crops were excellent, but, as they were not harvested until the autumn, the effect of the failure of crops in 1927-28 was felt in some districts in the early part of the year. The relief measures started in the latter part of the year 1927-28 to combat scarcity in the districts of Burdwan, Birbhum, Bankura, Nadia, Murshidabad, Khulna, Malda and Dinajpur were continued until November 1928. In these districts land improvement and agriculturists' loans were distributed liberally, the total sum advanced amounting to Rs. 15,36,720.

21. The prevailing high rates of wages of skilled and unskilled labourers were maintained, but there was little improvement in the condition of the landless middle class who depend on fixed incomes. Attempts are being made in Faridpur and Bakarganj to encourage youths of the *bhadralok* class to take to agriculture.

22. The public health in the Presidency was on the whole good. There was no serious outbreak of epidemic disease, and malaria, kala-azar, cholera and small-pox were less prevalent. The greater attention paid by the local authorities (district boards, municipalities and union boards) to preventive measures is partly responsible for this improvement.

23. The depression in the coal industry in the Burdwan Division continued. The jute and cotton mills in Hooghly, Howrah and the 24-Parganas were in a prespereous condition and engineering works in the Presidency did well. As a result of demands for increased wages, strikes took place in some workshops in Howrah district. The strike of the East Indian Railway workshop employees at Lillooah continued till the end of June 1928, and there were strikes in some of the works in Howrah district. Tea cultivation in the districts of Chittagong and Jalpaiguri was extended during the year, but the tea industry in the districts of Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri was rather less prosperous than in the preceding year.

CHAPTER II.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

Realisation of the Revenue.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1928-29.]

Total collection.

24. The total number of estates paying land revenue was 100,795 against 100,614 in the preceding year. Of these, 93,559 were permanently settled estates, 4,383 temporarily settled estates and 2,853 were estates under direct management of Government. The increase of 181 estates was due to partition and to the creation of new estates by resumption and settlement. The current demand on account of land revenue for the year was Rs. 2,97,10,746 against Rs. 2,93,33,715 in the preceding year. The increase of Rs. 3,77,031 in the demand was due to settlement of newly accreted lands, to re-settlement of temporarily settled estates on the termination of leases and also to progressive increase of demand in Government estates. The total realisable demand, including arrears of Rs. 19,81,652, was Rs. 3,16,92,398, out of which the amount collected was Rs. 2,94,13,088, being 92·80 per cent. of the total and 98·99 per cent. of the current demand against 93·79 and 98·96 per cent., respectively, in the previous year. The total remissions amounted to Rs. 58,831 against Rs. 74,918 in the preceding year. The total outstanding balance amounted to Rs. 22,20,479 or 7·006 per cent. of the total demand. The major portion of the balance is in process of recovery.

Miscellaneous land revenue.

25. The total collections of miscellaneous land revenue amounted to Rs. 9·22 lakhs against Rs. 10·23 lakhs in the preceding year. The decrease was due to the fact that in the year 1927-28 there was an unusually large income under the head "Sale of Government lands."

Redemption of land revenue.

26. The total number of petty estates and holdings in which the land revenue was redeemed during the year under review was 283 against 293 in the preceding year. The total amount of land revenue redeemed was Rs. 416 and the total price realised was Rs. 12,431, the corresponding figures of the preceding year being Rs. 450 and Rs. 13,474, respectively. The total revenue redeemed up to date comes to Rs. 36,990, for which Rs. 9,26,173 has been realised as redemption money.

Coercive measures (a) Sale Law.

27. The number of defaults and of sales during the year was 17,182 and 1,115, respectively, as against 11,568 and 1,001

in the preceding year. The number of exemptions from sale under section 18, including those for petty arrears, was 16,065 or 93·4 per cent. of the total defaults. Of the total number of defaults only 6·48 per cent. actually came to sale.

28. The total number of certificate cases instituted during the year, other than those for cesses, was 77,552 against 77,383 in the preceding year. The percentage of cases disposed of to the total number for disposal was 71·86. In the majority of cases payments were made on the issue of notices or on attachment of property, and actual sale was necessary only in 2,987 cases or 4·1 per cent. of the 71,870 cases disposed of. (b) Certificates.

Other Revenue Works.

29. The number of proprietory interests entered in the land registration registers was 1,033,953 at the beginning of the year as against 1,040,545 at its close. Land registration.

30. There were 226 cases pending at the close of the preceding year; 47 new cases were instituted during the year and 34 cases were disposed of. Special officers were employed exclusively on partition work throughout the year in the districts of Tippera and Mymensingh. Estates Partition Funds exist only in the districts of Dacca and Mymensingh. The incidence of cost per acre of the area partitioned during the year was 11 annas and 6 pies in Dacca and 6 annas in Mymensingh. Partition.

31. The total area acquired for Government purposes, including State Railways and other railways provided with land free of cost by Government, was 968·93 acres at a cost of Rs. 4,67,423, as against 458·22 acres at a cost of Rs. 6,88,434 in the previous year. The area acquired for all other purposes was 509·71 acres as compared with 726·12 acres in the previous year. Land acquisitions.

32. The outstanding balance of the Land Improvement Loans at the beginning of the year was Rs. 1,50,904 and fresh advances were made amounting to Rs. 92,914. The total amount due for collection was Rs. 57,956 and Rs. 50,635 was realised during the year. Loans: Land Improvement and Agriculturists' Loans Acts.

The outstanding balance of agriculturists' loans at the beginning of the year was Rs. 4,82,117; the amount advanced during the year was Rs. 14,44,206. The amount due for collection was Rs. 8,17,628, of which Rs. 7,11,836 were collected.

Surveys.

[Report on the Survey Department, Bengal, for the year ending 30th September 1928.]

Outturn of the year.

33. The main traverse programme consisted of 604 square miles in the district of Burdwan and 1,555 square miles (Control Traverse) in the district of Malda. The country traversed in Burdwan was open and presented few difficulties, though, owing to the unhealthiness of the area there was sickness amongst the Survey staff. The traverse survey of three Government and three temporarily settled estates in the district of Noakhali, with an area of 71 square miles was carried out during the year. In Bakarganj traverse survey of scattered areas was continued and six Government estates situated in three thanas were traversed.

Of the miscellaneous work done by the Survey Section, the traverse survey of the remaining blocks of the Garden Reach Municipality was carried out. Minor surveys in the districts of Rangpur, Rajshahi, Nadia and Malda were also taken up during the year.

The most interesting survey work during the year was the survey carried out from the air in the district of Malda by the Air Survey Company. It was the satisfactory survey of a forest area in Chittagong by the Air Survey Company which encouraged Government to take up the Cadastral Survey by air of the Malda district. Unfortunately, the novel conditions, climatic and technical, caused difficulties which the Air Survey Company were not at first able to overcome, and the maps produced were not up to the high standard required by the Department. There has since been a great improvement in technique and the sheets now produced are of a very high standard of accuracy.

Land Records and Settlement.

[Annual Report on the Survey and Settlement Operations in Bengal for the year ending 30th September 1928.]

General.

34. Cadastral survey and settlement operations were conducted in 14 districts. The total area for which a record-of-rights has now been completed is 49,573 square miles out of the 65,304 square miles of territory in which the Bengal Tenancy Act is in force.

Major settlements.

35. Major settlement operations were conducted in six districts. The operations in the 24-Parganas and in Murshidabad-Birbhum and the revisional settlement in Chittagong were in full swing with all stages of work in progress; those in Khulna and Pabna-Bogra were in the closing stages. Operations were started in Burdwan, but preliminary arrangements only were possible in Malda.

Khulna.

36. In the Khulna Settlement, the pending work dealt with during the year consisted of (*i*) case work, (*ii*) diara resumptions and (*iii*) recovery of cost of the operations. On the application of the landlords, fair rents were settled in respect of 1,172 tenancies. Proceedings for the resumption of the surplus alluvial accretions in some of the rivers of the district were confirmed during the year by the Board of Reveune, securing to Government an additional annual revenue of Rs. 10,939. The total recovery effected during the year from the landlords and tenants of the district for their share towards the cost of the operation was Rs. 28,420, which brings the total amount recovered up to date to Rs. 16,08,984 as against the total estimated demand of Rs. 16,25,797.

Pabna-Bogra.

37. The Pabna-Bogra Settlement had to deal with a very large number of applications for settlement of fair rents of tenancies. Fair rents were settled during the year for 74,336 tenancies, while a comparatively smaller number of cases regarding the correctness of the entries in the finally published record-of-rights were also dealt with. Resettlement of land revenue was completed in eight estates, while proceedings drawn up for the resumption and assessment of the surplus alluvial accretions in the beds of rivers Hurasagar in police-station Shahzadpur, Ichamati in police-station Serajganj and Karatoa Fuljor in police-station Ullapara were finally approved by the Board of Revenue. As against the computed demand of Rs. 22,02,379 proposed to be realised from landlords and tenants for their share of the cost of the settlement operations, Rs. 21,78,835 have been realised to date and the balance is expected to be realised in the next financial year.

Murshidabad-Birbhum.

38. In the Murshidabad-Birbhum Settlement, the attestation of the records of the Sadar subdivision of Birbhum with the exception of those of thanas Labpur and Nanoor was completed during the year. The total number of tenancies attested was 388,452, and in course of this as many as 99,314 disputes between landlords and tenants had to be dealt with. Of these disputes 36,461 related to claims by tenants to hold their respective tenancies at a rent or rate of rent fixed in perpetuity. In 25,804

cases the tenants succeeded in establishing their claims and were recorded as having the status of a tenant whose rent or rate of rent is unalterable and fixed in perpetuity. Fifty-five thousand nine hundred and seventy-two claims to hold their lands free of rent were also raised by the tenants, of which only 51,175 were allowed after hearing the parties. The system of begar, i.e., labour in lieu of rent, which was found to be in vogue in this area was carefully examined and, with the consent of the parties, a large number of such cases were commuted to cash rent. But where this was not possible, the incidents of the begar were definitely ascertained and entered in the record-of-rights in course of operation. Out of the 79 estates in its programme, resettlement of land revenue of 53 estates have been completed till now and work is in progress in the remaining 16 estates. During the year the Board of Revenue has confirmed the proceedings for the resumptions of the surplus alluvial accretions on the Jellangi, proceedings for resumption of similar accretions in the other rivers of the district are now in progress. Fair rents were settled in respect of 4,865 tenancies. Recovery of cost was considerably hampered on account of agricultural distress, a sum of little over 6 lakhs only having been realised against the estimated demand of Rs. 9,22,925. In spite of the unusually large number of plots and interests the settlement had to deal with, the financial position of this settlement continues to be satisfactory and there was a saving of nearly 3 lakhs as compared with the inception estimates.

24-Parganas.

39. All the stages of work of survey and settlement were in progress during the year in the 24-Parganas Settlement. The area cadastrally surveyed during the year consisted of 688 square miles for which preliminary draft record-of-rights was prepared. The draft record-of-rights of most of the area as also of the area of 176 square miles left over in the previous year was checked locally in presence of landlords and tenants, the number of plots for which such local verification of the draft record-of-rights was made being 10¾ lakhs, leaving a little over 6¼ lakhs to be taken up during the next year. The preliminary record-of-rights of which field to field check had been completed in the previous year and covering an area of 628 square miles were also attested during the year. At the attestation, as many as 52,133 disputes were heard and decided. In addition to this, 29,121 claims to hold the tenancies at fixed rent or rate of rent were raised by tenants which were disposed of after hearing the parties concerned. Resettlement of land revenue in two Government estates, seven Sunderbans grants let out under the rules of 1853 and nine Sunderbans estates let out under the rules

of 1879 had been completed. The recovery of costs was satisfactory, Rs. 3,82,379 being realised during the year from the first block of this settlement. This settlement continues to show a satisfactory financial position, the total saving up to date being Rs. 5,57,000 as compared with the inception estimates.

Chittagong.

40. In Chittagong Revisional Settlement the area taken up for check of case cadastral survey and preparation of preliminary draft records was 312 square miles, practically the whole of which was completed during the year. Resettlement of land revenue was also completed in thanas Raojan, Hathazari and Fatikchary. A sum of Rs. 54,456, has been recovered towards the cost of the operations as against the computed demand of Rs. 93,835.

Burdwan.

41. This is the first year of the Burdwan Settlement. The programme for the year comprised an area of 738 square miles for cadastral survey and preparation of preliminary draft record-of-rights. The whole programme was completed in good time in spite of the frequent sickness of the staff due to the extreme unhealthy conditions of the area. The special survey of Burdwan town was taken up at the instance of the municipality which will bear the cost of this survey. The total expenditure up to the end of the year was Rs. 3,73,970 against Rs. 4,70,663 in the inception estimates.

Minor operations.

42. Minor operations were carried on in the districts of Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Rajshahi, Nadia, Bankura, Chittagong Hill Tracts, Dacca and Bakarganj.

Waste Lands.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1928-29.]

43. Settlements of waste lands in the districts of Chittagong, Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling and in the Sundarbans are made in accordance with the special rules that exist for the purpose. During the year no new lease of waste lands in the districts of Darjeeling, Khulna and Chittagong was granted. In Jalpaiguri an area of 1,273 acres was settled on an initial revenue of Rs. 1,215 which will eventually rise to Rs. 1,640.

Of the settlement of newly-formed chars in Bakarganj, Char Nishanbaria has been kept as forest for the protection against storm waves from Rabnabad Channel.

In Bakarganj out of the area of 35,010 acres of char lands comprised in the scheme of raiyatwari settlement, 20,136 acres have already been settled at a cost of Rs. 9,050.

In Noakhali a raiyatwari settlement of 11,789 acres of char lands was concluded during the year with an ultimate revenue of Rs. 37,137. The salami realised in connection with these settlements amounted to Rs. 1,93,829

A new island char with an area of 3,500 acres appeared in the bed of the Meghna within the revenue jurisdiction of Sandwip. Formal possession of the char has been taken and it has been named Char Clarke. There were also minor settlements of char lands in the districts of Pabna, Tippera and Hooghly.

The proposal for the raiyatwari settlement with agricultural co-operative societies formed of landless cultivators of the Badorkhali block of the Chakaria Sundarbans in the district of Chittagong was sanctioned during the year.

Government Estates.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1928-29.]

Number and management.

44. The total number of estates under direct management, including those belonging to private individuals but managed by Government but excluding Calcutta, the Orphanganj Market and the Hastings estate in the 24-Parganas, was 2,852 with a total demand of Rs. 57,02,169 against 2,750 estates with an aggregate annual demand of Rs. 54,49,107 in the previous year. The percentage of the cost of management on the current demand was 10·0 against 10·5 in the previous year. There was no material change in the system of management of the khasmahals in any of the districts.

Grant for management and improvement.

45. Out of the total grant for the management and improvement of Government estates in the Presidency a sum of Rs. 5,69,318 was spent on management and Rs. 2,33,555 on improvements. Of the latter amount, which represents 3·9 of the current demand Rs. 42,532 was spent on tanks and wells, Rs. 65,476 on drainage, irrigation and embankments, and Rs. 1,03,562 on miscellaneous improvements including repairs and construction of khasmahal bungalows, the maintenance of

roads and bridges, the clearance of jungle and agricultural experiments. A sum of Rs. 4,133 was spent on raiyatwari settlement and Rs. 71,307 for the purchase from the Irrigation Department of lands in the Angeria Creek in the district of Bakarganj. A total amount of Rs. 21,985 was spent during the year for improvement of hats and markets.

Colonisation of the Sundarbans.

46. The colonisation scheme of twenty-two estates in the Bakarganj-Sundarbans, which was initiated about twenty-two years ago, is expected to be completed within another year, and the programme of colonisation in the 24-Parganas-Sundarbans is also being steadily carried out. The total expenditure incurred by Government on reclamation in the 24-Parganas and Bakarganj-Sundarbans, and the total income derived from these areas up to the end of the year under report, were as below:—

	Total expenditure.	Total receipts.
	Rs.	Rs.
Bakarganj-Sundarbans	15,89,688	21,11,063
24-Parganas-Sundarbans	3,65,523	4,27,054

Malaria, for which the Sundarbans was notorious, has almost disappeared as a result of the reclamation work undertaken. While the number of schools and pupils in the Bakarganj-Sundarbans showed a steady increase, there was no noticeable progress in education amongst the tenants in the colonised areas in the 24-Parganas.

Wards and Attached Estates.

Number of estates

47. The total number of estates under the management of the Court of Wards stood at 83 at the beginning of the year under report, including three small estates owned by some of the members of the Dacca Nawab family. Ten new estates were brought under the charge of the Court and five released from its management during the year, with the result that there thus remained 88 estates under its charge at the close of the year. Two of those taken over—Kasimbazar and Mahishadal—are among the largest in Bengal.

Collection of rent and cesses.

48. The total demand of rent and cesses due to the estates under the management of the Court stood at Rs. 1,56,68,260, inclusive of an arrear of Rs. 94,21,997, of which Rs. 64,50,531 or 41·2 per cent. was collected, against 43·6 per cent. in the preceding year. The standard of 100 per cent. collection on current demand was reached or exceeded only in 31 estates.

Balance of rent and cesses due to estates.

49. The outstanding balance of rent and cesses due to all the estates under the management of the Court aggregated Rs. 87,22,349 which represented 137·03 per cent. on the current and 55·2 per cent. on the total demand, against 124·1 per cent. and 53·3 per cent., respectively, of the preceding year.

Debts of estates.

50. The total amount of ascertained debts that remained outstanding from the several estates in the Presidency at the close of the year under report stood at Rs. 1,00,05,245 against Rs. 87,20,800 in the preceding year. The increase is due to the assumption of charge of new estates with heavy debts and to the ascertainment of fresh liabilities of some estates previously under the Court. The principal repaid or otherwise reduced during the year amounted to Rs. 26,92,386, and the interest paid or otherwise reduced was Rs. 8,21,759.

Management charges.

51. The percentage of the cost of management of estates in the whole Presidency on their current rent and cess demand showed a reduction, being 12·4 against 13·01 in the previous year.

Improvements.

52. In solvent estates, the standards fixed for minimum expenditure on education and works of agricultural and sanitary improvement are 1 and 3 per cent., respectively, on their current and cess demands. No standard has been fixed for expenditure on works of miscellaneous improvement. The total amount spent during the year under these heads by the estates in the Presidency amounted to Rs. 3,15,738 against Rs. 3,06,942 in the preceding year.

Revenue and Rent-Paying Classes.

Bengal Tenancy Act—the extent of its application.

53. The districts of Darjeeling, Chittagong Hill Tracts and the town of Calcutta continued to be outside the scope of the Act, while in the Duars portion of the Jalpaiguri district it applied, as before, to a limited extent. The Act was in force in the rest of the province.

54. The provisions of Chapter VIIA of the Bengal Tenancy Act, which impose restrictions on the alienation of land by certain aboriginal tribes, were further extended to the Koras of Labpur and Nalhati Circles of the district of Birbhum and to the Bhuyas and Koras of the district of Bankura. Alienation of land by aborigines.

55. Section 180A, introduced by the Utbandi Amendment Act of 1923, applies only to the districts of Nadia, Murshidabad and Jessore. The section has been of value to the tenants. Commutation of Utbandi rents.

56. As in the previous years very little use was made by the tenants of the provisions of section 58 of the Act, which penalises the failure to give proper receipts after the payment of rent. Measure to compel the issue of rent receipts.

The Chittagong Hill Tracts.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Chittagong Hill Tracts for the year 1928-29.]

57. In the Chittagong Hill Tracts, which are administered under the Special Regulation I of 1900 and the rules framed thereunder, the land revenue proper consists of rent from lands settled for plough cultivation as opposed to the shifting cultivation by jhumming. Five hundred and forty-eight preliminary leases of new settlement covering 1,449 acres of land were granted during the year against 647 covering 983 acres in the previous year. The current demand was Rs. 1,32,248 against Rs. 1,27,338 in the previous year. Collection amounted to 49 per cent. of the total demand including arrears for the previous year.

The year was a fairly prosperous one for agriculture. The rainfall was normal and evenly distributed and considerably helped the growing crops. Conditions for burning jhum too were favourable, and a good outturn of paddy was obtained both from jhumming and from plough cultivation. The price of cotton was between Rs. 10 and Rs. 12 per maund, but the outturn was poor.

There was a serious outbreak of epidemic diseases in the district. Although preventive measures were taken 328 persons died of cholera and 92 of small-pox.

The forest revenue fell from Rs. 1,71,714 to Rs. 1,36,234. This does not include the revenue derived from the portions of the Hill Tracts in the Chittagong and Cox's Bazar Forest Divisions. Other revenues, including the revenue from the jhum tax, showed a slight increase from Rs. 50,543 to Rs. 51,207.

CHAPTER III-A—PROTECTION.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITIES.

See—Bengal Administration Report for 1921-22, pages 154-159.

Course of Legislation.

Acts passed.

58. Five Acts were passed by the Bengal Legislative Council during the year 1928-29:—

(*1*) *The Dacca University* (*Amendment*) *Act, 1928* (*Bengal Act II of 1928*), to remove certain defects discovered in working the Dacca University Act, 1920, the most important point being to make the Executive Council the final authority for payment of fees to examiners and of emoluments of teachers.

(*2*) *The Bengal Medical* (*Amendment*) *Act, 1928* (*Bengal Act III of 1928*), to make the Bengal Council of Medical Registration under section 4 of the Bengal Medical Act, 1914, a more representative body with power to inspect medical institutions and to appoint Committees to inspect such institutions and to authorize payment of certain fees and allowances to the members for attendance at Committee meetings.

(*3*) *The Bengal Tenancy* (*Amendment*) *Act, 1928* (*Bengal Act IV of 1928*), to remove defects in the Act of 1885. The new Act was based on the report of the Committee appointed by the Government in August 1921. The principal changes made in the law of landlord and tenant were to confer on an occupancy tenant a right of transfer of his occupancy holding subject to the payment of a transfer fee to the landlord, to confer on the landlord a right to have the holding transferred to himself on payment of compensation, to give occupancy rights to under-raiyats, to give to occupancy raiyats and under-raiyats complete rights in trees on their land, to empower a co-sharer landlord to sue separately for his share of rent, to empower an occupancy tenant to construct masonry buildings, etc., on his holding, to afford certain facilities to the tenant in the payment of his rent, to simplify the procedure for the realisation of arrears of rent with a view to minimise litigation and to abolish the system of commutation of produce rent into money rent as being unsuitable in certain cases.

(*4*) *The Calcutta Suburban Police* (*Amendment*) *Act, 1929* (*Bengal Act I of 1929*), to provide a procedure for dealing with

movable property found in the suburbs of the town of Calcutta on the lines of the provisions contained in the Calcutta Police Act, 1866.

(5) *The protection of Muhammadan Pilgrims (Bengal Amendment) Act, 1929 (Bengal Act II of 1929)*, to secure some degree of control over Muallems or pilgrim guides in connection with pilgrimages to the Hedjaz. The assent of the Governor General to this Act was received after the close of the year.

59. The following Government Bills were pending at the close of the year— Government Bills pending.

(1) *The Bengal Village Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1928, already mentioned in the previous year's report.*—The report of the Select Committee was presented on the 3rd August 1928. The Council took the Bill into consideration on the same date and carried certain amendments depriving commissioners and district magistrates of powers of control over union boards. The member in charge did not move for the third reading of the Bill, which was accordingly never passed.

(2) *The Bengal State Aid to Industries Bill, 1928*, to obtain statutory power to give State aid for the purpose of encouraging cottage industries and industries on a small scale, in the shape of loans, guarantees, the provision of a hire-purchase system, etc. This Bill was introduced on the 9th August 1928; on the motion of the Government Member that it be referred to a Select Committee an amendment was moved by a non-official member that the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon and was carried on the same date. On the 4th February 1929, the motion of the Government Member to refer the Bill to a Select Committee was rejected by the Council.

(3) *The Bengal (Rural) Primary Education Bill, 1928*, to make better provision for primary education in rural areas in Bengal by—

(*i*) Providing a central authority for each district to control primary education,

(*ii*) raising the funds necessary for the extension of primary education, and

(*iii*) providing for compulsory attendance at school.

The Bill was introduced on the 9th August 1928, and on the next day referred to a Select Committee consisting of 32 members. The report of the Select Committee was presented to the Council on the 26th March 1929.

Non-official members' Bills pending.

60. The following non-official members' Bills were pending at the close of the year:—

(1) *The Bengal Village Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1928*, by Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri, already mentioned in the previous year's Report. This Bill was taken into consideration and passed on the 6th August 1928, but His Excellency the Governor instead of signifying his assent returned the Bill for reconsideration with certain amendments which were carried on the 7th February 1929. Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri did not move for the third reading of the Bill, which was accordingly not passed.

(2) *The Indian Universities (Bengal Amendment) Bill, 1928*, by Dr. Pramathanath Banerjea, already mentioned in the previous year's Report.

This Bill was referred to a Select Committee on the 9th August 1928. The report of the Committee was presented to the Council on the 7th February 1929, but the Member-in-charge instead of making any further motion agreed to postpone the motion for the consideration of the Bill till the next session of the Council in view of the fact that legislation by Government on the same subject was in contemplation.

(3) *The Bengal Industrial Development Bill, 1928*, by Babu Naliniranjan Sarker, to provide for the initiation or development of industries in Bengal with a view to improving the economic condition of the people. The Bill was introduced on the 7th February 1929; on the 8th February a motion to circulate the Bill for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon was carried.

(4) *The Bengal Prevention of Dangerous Diseases Bill, 1928*, by Dr. Kumud Sankar Roy, to provide for the control and prevention of dangerous diseases in Bengal. The Bill was introduced and referred to a Select Committee on the 8th February 1929.

(5) *The Bengal Pasture Bill, 1928*, by Babu Jatindra Nath Chakraburtty, to provide for the acquisition, recovery, protection, and management of pasturages in Bengal. This Bill was introduced on the 8th February 1929.

(6) *The Bengal Cattle Bill, 1928*, by Babu Jatindra Nath Chakraburtty, to provide for the protection of cattle in Bengal, was introduced on the 8th February 1929.

(7) *The Calcutta Rent Bill, 1928*, by Babu Jitendralal Bannerjee, to improve tenancy conditions in Calcutta, was introduced on the 8th February 1929, and on the motion of the Member-in-charge that the Bill be taken into consideration a dilatory motion was carried by way of amendment that the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon.

61. All the Bills mentioned in paragraphs 59 and 60 lapsed after the close of the year owing to the dissolution of the Bengal Legislative Council on the 22nd April 1929.

Police Administration in the Bengal Presidency.

[The Report of the Police Administration in the Bengal Presidency for the year 1928.]

Eastern Frontier Rifles.

62. The Battalion again proved its value as an efficient provincial reserve force. Detachments were sent to Kharagpur during the serious communal riots in July and September, and also reinforced the local police in Howrah during the Railway strike.

The pay of the non-commissioned officers and men of the Battalion was raised with effect from the 1st November 1928. In order to induce trained men to remain in the Battalion as long as possible, a new element of pay was introduced in the shape of deferred pay at the rate of Rs. 2 per mensem payable on retirement to men of not less than eight years' service with effect from the beginning of the fifth year of service.

Recruitment and health of the Civil Police.

63. The increase in pay sanctioned with effect from the 1st November 1928 had a marked effect on the force. The number of recruits who resigned while under training fell from 237 in 1927 to 60 in 1928, while the percentage of casualties under all heads fell from 11·3 to 8·2, the lowest figure recorded since 1922. It is also interesting to note that at the end of 1928 there were about 800 more constables of over 10 years' service in the force than there were at the end of the previous year. If the tendency indicated by these figures continues, considerable saving of expenditure should be effected through the elimination of the great waste involved by the presence in the force of large numbers of untrained or inefficiently trained recruits and of men rendered ineffective by illness consequent on under-nutrition and inadequate leave. That the amount of waste owing to sickness is not negligible is seen from the fact that the State had to spend during 1928 the sum of Rs. 1,89,000 on the pay of men who were in hospital or confined to barracks through illness. The economic conservation of man power demands the provision of decent housing and hospital accommodation, but owing to financial reasons the formulation of a building scheme to be financed by loan had to be postponed.

Discipline.

64. There was a decrease from 90 to 53 in the number of judicial punishments and from 11,704 to 10,803 in that of punishments imposed in departmental proceedings. There was also a big decrease in the number of criminal complaints brought against police officers and men. Including cases pending from the preceding year 383 such complaints were instituted in 1928 as against 419 in 1927 and 464 in 1926. Out of 333 cases disposed of during the year 171 or over 51 per cent. were dismissed summarily, 125 or about 37 per cent. resulted in acquittal, while only 37 or just over 11 per cent. ended in conviction.

Crime Statistics.

65. The number of cognizable cases reported (92,025) was about 500 higher than in 1927 and about 3,000 higher than in 1926. On the other hand, the 1928 figures are lower than those for any of the years 1922 to 1925, while the number of true cases of serious crime decrease by about 340 to 43,966, the lowest figure recorded in the last seven years except in 1926. The number of cases of theft was 15,699, the lowest recorded since the reconstitution of the province in 1912; as compared with 1927 burglaries showed an increase of 219 to 24,584, a higher figure than the number in 1926 but lower than those recorded between 1912 and 1925. Dacoities, of which there were 802, showed an increase as compared with any year since 1912 except 1922, 1923 and 1924. It is a striking feature of crime statistics that while in 1912 the number of dacoities was only one-fourth of what it was in 1928 (201 as against 802) there were in the former year 4,000 more burglaries and 2,000 more thefts.

There was an increase in the percentage of decided police cases ending in conviction, which compared favourably with other provinces.

Although there was a further decrease in the percentage of cases disposed of in two hearings, there was an increase in the number of cases remanded more than six times. Unfortunately it was not possible to provide funds for an adequate increase in the number of magistrates. The changes of procedure introduced by the amendment of the Criminal Procedure Code in 1923 have increased opportunities for obstruction, and there is a real danger that action by a magistrate to avoid delay, such as ruling out irrelevant evidence, may be used by one of the parties to the case as a pretext for recourse to tactics which make delay inevitable. The device adopted is to give notice under section 526 of the Criminal Procedure Code of an intention to move the High Court to transfer the case to another court. Under the law as it now stands, the hearing of the case must be stopped at once and an adjournment of sufficient length to enable the party concerned to

apply to the High Court must be allowed. In a number of instances the obvious purpose of giving notice was simply to gain time in order to defeat the ends of justice. In very many cases after the notice was given no application to the High Court was made. The law provides no remedy for such an abuse, nor does it prevent the repetition of the manœuvre.

Criminal Tribes.

66. The Criminal Tribes Act served a useful purpose in facilitating the control of active criminal gangs.

The experiment now being made at Nilphamari to bring up children of the Karwal Nats settled at Saidpur away from the evil influences of the elder members of the tribe gives more promise of effecting real reformation of the tribe than any of the methods hitherto tried. The proposal for the complete segregatoin of incorrigible members of the tribe was considered by Government, but no practicable means of giving effect to it could be found.

Village Police and Police Work of Union Boards.

67. The transfer of control from magistrates and police to union boards has affected the value of the rural police for the purposes of information, investigation and the surveillance of criminals. Instances however have not been wanting to show that union boards and police officers have begun to co-operate more readily and are adapting themselves to the change in system.

Police Administration in Calcutta.

[The Report on the Police Administration in the town of Calcutta and its suburbs for the year 1928.]

Strength.

68. The sanctioned strength of the Calcutta Police Force at the end of 1928 was practically the same as at the end of the preceding year but the actual strength was increased by 143, although only 673 constables were recruited as compared with 771 in 1927. As in the Bengal Police the increased pay for sergeants, head constables and officers of lower rank, sanctioned from the 1st November 1928, had an immediate effect, and there can be little doubt that the big decrease in the number of vacancies is due to the better conditions of service. The number of constables of seventeen years' service and over increased from 357 to 464 while resignations dropped from 119 to 90. The health of the force also showed some improvement, the average daily percentage of sick falling to 2·04.

Housing.

69. The programme of building construction, for which a loan was obtained from the Government of India, was nearly completed, but financial reasons made it useless to proceed with the formulation of a loan scheme for police buildings in the suburbs.

Discipline.

70. It is regretted that misconduct on the part of members of the force necessitated sharp disciplinary and judicial action in a larger number of cases than in any of the three preceding years. The exposures made in the River Gang case tried at Alipore showed that the thefts from jetties and vessels in the stream had been committed with the connivance of several police officers. One inspector, two sub-inspectors, seven sergeants, two assistant sub-inspectors, six head constables, four constables and two dandies of the Calcutta Police were dismissed.

Crime Statistics.

71. There was an increase of over 40 per cent. in the number of true cases of burglary and of over 30 per cent. in the number of true cases of theft. The increase of crime referred to has coincided with the return of most of the well-known offenders dealt with under the Presidency Area Emergency Security Act.

Revolutionary crime and seditious writings and speeches.

72. During the year the remainder of the person imprisoned under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act were released from restraint, and it was not considered necessary to make any fresh arrests. Although no overt act of violence was perpetrated by terrorists in Calcutta, constant vigilance on the part of the police was necessary. There was an increasing output of seditious speeches and writings and a larger number of prosecutions had to be instituted.

Public order.

73. Owing to the easing of inter-communal tension and the elaborate precautions taken by the police on the occasion of important Hindu and Muhammadan festivals, there was no serious rioting nor any violent display of ill-feeling between the two communities.

The arrival of the Statutory Commission in India on the 3rd February 1928 had been marked by disorderly demonstrations, and some apprehension was entertained that there would be a similar outbreak on the arrival of the Commission in Calcutta in December and during their stay in the city, which synchronised with the visit of His Excellency the Viceroy and the session of the Congress and a number of connected conferences, and again on the return of the Commission from Assam in the middle of January. The police arrangements however were thorough, and in spite of demonstrations no serious disturbance took place.

74. The strike of Corporation scavengers in May and June, 1928, called for tactful handling on the part of the Calcutta Police force, which had also the difficult task, successfully discharged, of shepherding a large number of processions during the course of the East Indian Railway strike at Howrah. Labour.

75. There was a further increase in the number of public service motor vehicles plying in Calcutta and improvement in the quality of vehicles placed on the streets. The preparation of an up-to-date set of rules governing the use of motor vehicles in Calcutta, the co-ordination of bus services, the reorganisation of the clerical and executive staff and the general improvement in traffic control show that the Motor Vehicles Department and the traffic police have been benefited by the visit of the Inspector of the London traffic police. Traffic.

76. Attention had been called in the public press to the nuisance caused by beggars, hawkers and stray cattle, and a considerable portion of the time and energy of the police was devoted to an attempt to mitigate such nuisances; but in the present state of the law police action can have little effect. Miscellaneous.

Criminal Justice.*

[Report on the Administration of Criminal Justice in the Presidency of Bengal during the year 1928.]

77. For sessions work, the staff consisted of 21 Sessions Judges and 14 Additional Sessions Judges throughout the year. Nine Subordinate Judges vested with the powers of Assistant Sessions Judge were employed in eight districts and decided 155 cases. There were also eleven temporary Additional Sessions Judges employed for varying periods in different districts on Sessions work. Judicial staff.

The magisterial staff employed at the close of the year, including that of the Presidency town, consisted of 439 stipendiary and 605 Honorary Magistrates. One Special Magistrate was employed at Noakhali for 100 days during the year. He decided 286 cases. Of the 439 Stipendiary Magistrates, 276 exercised first, 135 second and 28 third class powers.

There were 118 benches of Magistrates constituted from among 572 Honorary Magistrates in the mufassal.

* The figures given under this heading do not include the figures for the Chittagong Hill Tracts. As these were included in last year's report, the comparative figures do not tally.

Offences reported.

78. The number of offences reported during the year, combined with the number pending from the previous year, was 424,132 against 422,563 in 1927.

Cases found to be true.

79. Of the total number of cases under inquiry, 348,139 were found to be true, and of these 301,490 were brought to trial.

Original Jurisdiction.

I.—Presidency Magistrates' Courts.

80. Of the total number of cases brought to trial 136,210 were in the courts of the Police and Municipal Magistrates in the Presidency town, and 165,280 in the courts of Magistrates in the mufassal.

The number of cases brought before the Presidency Magistrates, including the Municipal Magistrates was 2,142 more than in 1927. There was an increase in the number of cases under special and local laws and a decrease under the Penal Code. Under the latter head the most noticeable features were a decrease of offences affecting the public health and an increase in cases of theft.

The percentage of convictions before Stipendiary Magistrates was 82·5 and before Honorary Magistrates sitting singly 98·5.

II.—Magistrates outside Calcutta.

Cases disposed of.

81. Including cases committed to the sessions 165,398 cases were disposed of during the year. These cases were distributed as follows:—

District Magistrates	77
Subordinate stipendiary Magistrates	134,038
Honorary Magistrates	14,387
Benches of Magistrates	16,582
Special Magistrates	286

In addition to the cases shown above, District and Subdivisional Magistrates decided 28 cases referred to them under sections 347 and 349 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Results of trials.

82. In the cases finally disposed of by Magistrates, 245,279 persons were accused. Of the total, 109,649 or 44·7 per cent. were convicted and 135,630 or 55·3 per cent. were acquitted or discharged.

Punishments.

83. The sentences passed on persons convicted were as follows:—

Imprisonment	16,460
Fine or forfeiture	90,129
Whipping	157

In addition to these sentences, 4,290 persons were required to give security.

The fines imposed aggregated Rs. 10,68,469. A sum of Rs. 7,99,122 was realised of which Rs. 1,27,157 were paid as compensation to complainants.

Miscellaneous proceedings.

84. The total number of miscellaneous cases under the Code of Criminal Procedure, decided during the year was 8,612 against 8,413 in the previous year.

Witnesses.

85. The number of witnesses examined in the courts of Magistrates in the mufassal was 385,562 as compared with 371,916 in 1927. The number who attended and were discharged without examination was 178,362 or 31·6 per cent. of the whole number in attendance; the percentage in the preceding year was 31·3. The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses of their attendance fell from Rs. 3,43,497 in 1927 to Rs. 3,07,715 in 1928.

Union Benches.

86. Union Benches established in 18 districts under the Bengal Village Self-Government Act of 1919 tried 67,336 persons of whom 53,809 were acquitted or discharged and 5,556 convicted and 6,405 persons remained under trial at the end of the year. The cases of 1,506 persons were transferred for trial to other courts. Fifty-four persons were sentenced to terms of imprisonment and orders of fine or forfeiture were passed against 5,502 persons. The amount of fine imposed was Rs. 38,251 and the amount realised was Rs. 34,001, out of which Rs. 460 was ordered to be paid as compensation. Nine hundred and fory-nine persons applied for the revision of the orders passed by Union Benches.

III.—Courts of Session.

Cases disposed of.

87. The number of cases disposed of in the courts of session was 1,467 against 1,508 in the previous year.

Results of trials.

88. There were 5,931 persons, or 397 more than in 1927, under trial before the courts of session. Of the 4,384 persons tried, 2,230 or 50·7 per cent. were convicted and 2,019 were acquitted or discharged, and the cases of 135 persons were referred to the High Court under sections 307 and 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Punishments.

89. The following sentences were passed by the courts of session:—

Death	19
Transportation or penal servitude ..	106
Imprisonment	1,996
Fine or forfeiture	162
Whipping	6

In addition to these sentences 304 persons were required to give security.

The fines imposed aggregated Rs. 32,950 of which Rs. 9,215 was realised. The amount of fines realised and paid as compensation was Rs. 1,210.

Witnesses.

90. The number of witnesses in attendance before the courts of session was 31,335. Of these, 19,485 were examined and 11,850 discharged without examination.

The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses incurred by them in attending sessions trials was Rs. 1,37,973 as compared with Rs. 1,25,881 in 1927.

High Court Sessions.

91. The number of cases disposed of was 52 against 62 in the previous year.

Altogether 75 persons were tried, of whom 36 were convicted and 39 acquitted.

Appellate Jurisdiction.

I.—High Court.

92. At the opening of the year, 148 appeals from sentences or orders of criminal courts were pending before the High Court. During the year 946 appeals were preferred and 969 were decided, leaving 125 pending. Thirteen appeals were preferred by the Local Government against orders of acquittal.

Results of appeals.

93. Five hundred and eighty-seven appeals against sentences of court of sessions were decided. The orders of the lower courts were upheld in 485, modified in 47 and reversed in 17 instances. Thirty-eight cases were remanded for retrial.

Three hundred and sixty-five appeals from the orders of Magistrates of the Presidency town were decided, the orders being affirmed in 345, modified in 7 and reversed in 7 cases. One case was disposed of otherwise and two cases were remanded for retrial.

Of the 15 appeals preferred by the Local Government and decided during the year, the orders of the lower courts were confirmed in 6 cases, the sentence was reversed in 1 and retrial was ordered in 7 cases. In one case the appeal was summarily dismissed.

II.—Appellate Courts Subordinate to the High Court.

Sessions Courts.

94. The number of appeals disposed of in the courts of session was 4,640 against 4,749 in the previous year. In the appeals decided, 8,310 persons were concerned.

The appeals of 2,003 persons or 24·1 per cent. were summarily dismissed; 2,848 appellants, whose appeals were admitted, were altogether unsuccessful; 1,174 obtained an alteration of sentence, and 2,017 were acquitted. The cases of 268 appellants were otherwise disposed of.

Magistrates' Courts.

95. In the courts of Magistrates 3,670 appeals were decided against 3,539 in the previous year. In the appeals decided, 6,311 persons were concerned. Of these, the appeals of 1,060 were summarily rejected, and the sentences on 2,478, whose appeals were admitted, were confirmed, making a total of 3,538 wholly unsuccessful appellants, or 56 per cent. Of the remainder, 747 appellants or 11·8 per cent. obtained an alteration of the sentences passed on them, 1,854 or 29·4 per cent. their total annulment and the cases of 172 appellants were otherwise disposed of. Compared with 1927, the results were less favourable to appellants.

Compared with the figures of 1927, there was an increase in the number of criminal cases disposed of by Magistrates both in the mufassal and in the Presidency town. There was also an increase in the appellate and revisional work disposed of by Magistrates in the mufassal. In the courts of session there was a general decrease in the outturn of criminal work. In the High Court there was a general increase in the criminal work disposed of. Ffteen persons (10 in Faridpur, 3 in the Presidency town and 2 in the 24-Parganas) were under trial for offences against the State. Of these, 2 were acquitted and 13 convicted.

The reports of the districts in which Union Benches have been established show that although not much relief has been afforded to Magistrates, the benches are greatly appreciated by the people.

Receipts and charges.

96. After debiting to the administration of criminal justice a portion of the salaries of judicial officers, calculated according to the time which their returns show them to have devoted to it, the total charges for the year amounted to Rs. 38,85,117. Of this

amount Rs. 20,16,144 were for the salaries of judicial officers, Rs. 2,02,473 for fixed and temporary copying establishments, Rs. 1,60,245 for process-servers, Rs. 7,04,850 for other establishments and Rs. 8,01,405 for contingencies and refunds.

The receipts amounted to Rs. 23,86,638. Of this amount Rs. 10,72,202 was under fines, Rs. 1,76,261 under process fees, Rs. 2,88,415 under copying and comparing fees, Rs. 7,57,271 under court-fee stamp receipts other than the above, and the balance of Rs. 92,489 was from miscellaneous receipts. Compared with the figures of 1927, the receipts show an increase of over Rs. 1,13,000 and the charges a decrease of over Rs. 16,000.

Civil Justice.*

[Report on the Administration of Civil Justice in the Presidency of Bengal during the year 1928.]

Judicial Staff.

97. The permanent civil judicial staff employed in the Presidency during 1928 consisted of 15 High Court Judges, 21 District Judges, 14 Additional District Judges, a Chief Judge and six Judges of the Presidency Small Cause Court, two Provincial Small Cause Court Judges who exercised also the powers of a Subordinate Judge, 44 Subordinate Judges and 235 Munsifs. In addition four executive officers exercised the powers of a Subordinate Judge or Small Cause Court Judge and two the powers of a Munsif.

There were also 13 temporary additional District Judges, 16 temporary additional Subordinate Judges and 1 temporary additional Munsif employed for varying periods in different districts.

Original Jurisdiction.

1.—High Court.

Original suits for disposal.

98. The total number of civil suits for disposal on the Original Side of the High Court in 1928 was 6,249 against 6,044 in the previous year.

* The figures given under this heading do not include the figures for the Chittagong Hill Tracts. As these were included in last year's report, the comparative figures do not tally.

Of 2,593 suits instituted during 1928, 1,681 were for money or movable property, 229 were mortgage suits and 206 were for immovable property.

The value of suits for specific money claims was Rs. 4,57,76,601 as compared with Rs. 5,19,55,059 in the previous year.

Original suits disposed of.

99. The number of suits decided in 1928 was 2,483. The number left undisposed of at the end of the year was 3,766, exceeding the number pending at the close of the previous year by 131. There were 2,087 suits pending over one year, showing an increase of 181 on the figures of the previous year.

Probates and letters of administration, etc.

100. During the year, 468 petitions for probate and letters of administration, and 16,000 interlocutory applications were disposed of. Of the interlocutory applications, 11,186 were disposed of by the Court or by a Judge in Chambers and the remainder (4,814) by the Registrar and the Master.

Awards under the Indian Arbitration Act IX of 1899.

101. The numbers of awards filed and of applications made in execution of awards were 174 and 185, respectively.

Appeals from Original Jurisdiction.

102. The number of appeals pending from the previous year was 69 and 101 new appeals were preferred to the Appellate Side of the Court. Of the total number, 17 were dismissed for default or otherwise not prosecuted, and 88 were decided after hearing. Of the latter, the decrees of the Courts of first instance were affirmed in 57, modified in 4 and reversed in 24 cases; three cases were remanded for retrial. Sixty-five appeals remained undecided at the close of the year.

Insolvency cases.

103. The number of cases under the old and new Acts pending in the Insolvency Court at the commencement of the year was 163 and 1,304, respectively, and the number instituted during the year was 245. Of the 1,712 cases for disposal, 523 were disposed of, the adjudication being set aside or superseded or the petition being withdrawn or dismissed in 58 and the insolvents obtaining relief in 465 cases. During the year 2,529 applications of a miscellaneous character were also disposed of.

Appeals to the Privy Council.

104. Six appeals from the Original Side were pending from the previous year, and seven appeals were admitted during the year. Of these, four were disposed of by the Privy Council and nine remained pending at the close of the year.

Financial results.

105. The following figures exhibit the financial results for the last three years, including under the head of expenditure the salaries of the Judges:—

Year.	Receipts.*	Receipts.†	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1926	20,01,801	8,96,174	7,44,573
1927	22,49,171	8,45,267	7,04,244
1928	24,58,325	11,41,858	7,28,318

*Including the duty realised on the grant of probates and letters of administration.
†Excluding the duty realised on the grant of probates and letters of administration.

II.—Civil Courts in the Mufassal subordinate to the High Court.

106. The court of an Additional Munsif at Naogaon in the district of Rajshahi was created on the abolition of the court of the Second Munsif of Bongaon in the district of Jessore with effect from the 23rd November 1928.

Original suits instituted.

107. The number of suits instituted in 1928 was 617,018, an increase of 28,854 on the figures of the previous year.

Local distribution.

108. There was an increase in the number of suits instituted in all the districts except Chittagong, Murshidabad, Rajshahi, Burdwan and Hooghly. The increase was most marked in Tippera, Mymensingh, Dacca, Bakarganj and Noakhali and occurred chiefly in money and rent suits.

The largest number of suits, viz., 62,352 was instituted in the district of Mymensingh where the number of money and title suits (27,256 and 7,774, respectively), was the heaviest in the province. In no other district did the institutions exceed 50,000.

Number of suits disposed of.

109. The number of suits disposed of was 606,717, an increase of 2,703 on the figures of 1927.

Of the total number, 587,795 were disposed of by Munsifs, 12,469 by Subordinate Judges, 6,079 by Small Cause Court Judges, 374 by District and Additional Judges. The figures show an increase in the courts of Munsifs only.

Result of suits decided.

110. Of the suits disposed of during the year, 99,982 were decided without trial, 438,167 without contest and 68,568 on contest.

Of the 68,568 suits decided on contest, 572 were disposed of on reference to arbitration. Of the remainder, 56,582 or 83·2 per cent. resulted in favour of the plaintiffs, 11,414 or 16·8 per cent. in favour of the defendants.

Applications for re-trial.

111. The number of applications for an order to set aside an ex-parte judgment or a judgment on default, preferred during the year, was 19,786. Of these, 9,146 or 46·2 per cent. were successful.

Suits decided by Munsifs.

112. The number of suits disposed of by Munsifs rose from 583,698 to 587,795, an increase of 4,097.

The average number of suits disposed of by each Munsif was 2,469 against 2,452 in 1927. Disposals under the Small Cause Court procedure formed 24·5 per cent. of the total.

Suits disposed of by Subordinate Judges.

113. The number of original suits disposed of by Subordinate Judges was 12,469, a decrease of 389 on the figures of the previous year. The decrease was in cases decided both under the ordinary and Small Cause Court procedure, and was spread over both contested and uncontested suits. The number of suits decided under the ordinary procedure was 6,367 and under the Small Cause Court procedure 6,102; of these, 29·4 per cent. and 15 per cent., respectively, were contested.

Suits disposed of by Small Cause Court Judges.

114. The provincial Small Cause Courts disposed of 6,079 original suits, of which 678 were contested or 186 less than in the previous year.

Pending suits.

115. The number of suits pending at the close of the year was 202,665 against 181,851 in the previous year. The increase is chiefly due to larger institutions.

Of the pending suits, 16,243 had been pending for more than a year, 72,451 for more than six months and 45,768 for more than three months. The figures show an increase in the long-pending arrears. Of the suits pending over one year, 11,589 were in the courts of Munsifs and 4,654 in the courts of District and Subordinate Judges, the figures showing an increase of 1,099 and 137, respectively, as compared with 1927. About 36·5, per cent. of these suits were however pending for final decree.

Miscellaneous cases.

116. Excluding transfers, there were 108,988 miscellaneous cases of a judicial nature before the courts for disposal, against 107,907 in the previous year. Of these, 86,131 were disposed of, 212 applications for Probates and Letters of Administration were treated as suits on their becoming contested, and 22,645 remained pending at the close of the year. Of the cases disposed of 34,264 were decided without trial, 36,509 without contest, and 15,358 on

contest or on reference to arbitration. Of the pending cases, 587 were pending over a year, Hooghly being responsible for the largest number (238).

Union courts.

117. There were 480 union courts established in sixteen of the districts in the Presidency under the Bengal Village Self-Government Act, 1919. The receipts amounted to Rs. 69,716 and the expenditure to Rs. 20,215. The total number of cases instituted in these courts was 60,184. There were 48,560 suits instituted for money or movable property representing a total value of Rs. 17,58,566. The number of Civil suits for trial was 53,160 of which 5,653 remained pending at the close of the year. The number of miscellaneous cases for trial was 6,819, of which 832 remained pending at the close of the year. The number of revision cases before these courts was 205, of which 36 were dismissed or not prosecuted, 64 were confirmed, 3 modified, 20 reversed, 5 remanded and 77 remained pending at the close of the year.

III.—Calcutta Small Cause Court.

118. The number of suits instituted and decided in the Presidency Court of Small Causes during 1928 and the number pending at the close of the year were 22,657, 23,380 and 3,702, respectively. The number instituted and disposed of shows a decrease of 540 and 500, respectively, while the number pending was greater than in 1927 by 137. Forty applications were filed under section 626 of the Calcutta Municipal Act (Bengal Act III of 1899).

The decrease in institutions was spread over all classes of suits except those valued at sums not exceeding Rs. 100 and Rs. 500.

Mode of disposal.

119. Of the suits disposed of, 993 were decided without trial, 18,477 without contest and 3,910 on contest or upon reference to arbitration.

Of the 3,702 suits pending at the close of the year, 831 were over three months old, against 764 in 1927.

Appellate Jurisdiction.

I.—High Court.

Appeals under section 15 of the Letters Patent.

120. One hundred and one appeals from decisions on the Original Side were filed during the year and 69 were pending at its commencement. Of the total, 105 were decided and 65

remained pending at the close of the year. The number of appeals disposed of was 22 less than in 1927. On the Appellate Side, 110 such appeals were filed during the year and 17 were pending at its commencement. Of these, 80 were decided and 47 remained pending at the close of the year.

II.—Appeals from the Subordinate Civil Courts.

Appeals to the High Court from subordinate courts.

121. The following statement shows the number of first and second appeals from the decrees and orders of the provincial courts of original and appellate jurisdiction, respectively, which came before the High Court and were decided during the year. The figures include appeals from the courts in Assam:—

—	Remaining at the close of 1927.	Brought before the court in 1928.	Disposed of in 1928.	Remaining at the close of 1928.
FIRST APPEALS.				
From original decree ..	543	474	(a)230	787
From original orders ..	340	325	339	326
From orders of the Commissioners under section 30 of Act VIII of 1923 ..	1	3	1	3
SECOND APPEALS.				
From appellate decrees ..	4,873	3,009	(b)4,061	3,821
From appellate orders ..	178	190	249	119
Total ..	5,935	4,001	4,880	5,056

(a) Including 54 Will cases.

(b) Of these, 903 were decided by a single Judge.

Results of Appeals.

122. The following table shows the results of appeals decided by the High Court affecting District Judges, Subordinate Judges and Commissioners under section 30 of Act VIII of 1923:—

—	Affirmed.			Modified or reversed.		
	District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.	Commissioners under section 30 of Act VIII of 1923.	District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.	Commissioners under section 30 of Act VIII of 1923.
Appeals from—						
Original decrees ..	28	67	....	21	42	....
Appellate decrees ..	798	1,142	....	139	265	....
Miscellaneous appeals	93	107	1	65	56	....

III.—Appellate Courts Subordinate to the High Court.

Appeals for disposal.

123. Excluding transfers, the number of appeals for disposal before the subordinate courts in Bengal in 1928 was 37,387 against 37,781 in 1927.

The number of appeals instituted during the year was 15,963 against 16,089 in the previous year. Of these 7,771 were in title suits, 6,192 in rent suits, and 2,000 in suits for money or movables. The numbers show a decrease in appeals in title and rent suits, but an increase in money suits.

Appeals disposed of.

124. The number of appeals decided was 17,950 and shows an increase of 130 in the number decided by District and Additional Judges and of 811 in that decided by Subordinate Judges, as compared with the previous year.

Appeals pending.

125. The number of appeals pending at the close of the year was 19,437 and was less than that of 1927 by 1,335. The number of appeals over one year old fell from 7,259 to 5,787.

Results of appeals.

126. The appellate courts affirmed the judgments of the lower courts in 9,749 cases, or 54·3 per cent. of the whole; modified them in 2,330 cases, or 13 per cent., and reversed them in 2,640 cases, or 14·7 per cent. Seven hundred and eight or 4 per cent. were remanded and 2,523 or 14 per cent. were either not prosecuted or dismissed for default. The results are, on the whole, more favourable to the lower courts than in the preceding year.

General.

127. There was an increase both in institutions and disposals of original suits in the subordinate courts during the year, but, institutions being greater than disposals, there was an increase in the pending file. A fall in the number of appeals preferred in the lower appellate courts was followed by a rise in the number disposed of, resulting in a reduction in the pending file. The number of year-old cases was larger in the original, and smaller in the appellate, courts than in the previous year. On the Appellate Side of the High Court, both the institutions and disposals were larger than in the previous year and there was a decrease in the pending file.

The Union Courts established under the Bengal Village Self-Government Act of 1919 are reported to afford some relief to the Munsifs and to be growing in popularity and usefulness as the number of suits in these courts is increasing every year.

Receipts and charges of the civil courts.

128. The receipts of the civil courts in Bengal and of the High Court amounted to Rs. 1,99,59,559, showing an increase of Rs. 4,83,703 and the charges to Rs. 90,94,966, showing an increase

of Rs. 3,551 on those of 1927. Including the amount realised on account of duty on probate, etc.,—

	Rs.
In the High Court	16,85,654*
In other courts	3,68,429*
Total ..	20,54,083

* The figures are for the financial year.

the profit to Government from civil litigation amounted to Rs. 1,08,64,593: excluding this item, it amounted to Rs. 88,10,510.

Details of the receipts and charges are as follows:—

RECEIPTS.

In stamps—	Rs.
Process fees	25,86,749
Other fees	1,61,40,850
In cash or special stamps	4,72,852
Other receipts	7,54,624
Fines	4,484
Total ..	1,99,59,559

CHARGES.

Salaries of Judicial Officers	34,18,091
Establishment—	
Process-servers	11,51,568
Others	30,60,477
Copyists' fees	5,41,687
Contingencies and refunds	9,23,143
Total ..	90,94,966

There was increase in receipts under all heads except "Process fees," and an increase in expenditure under the head "Establishment." The increase in receipts, which was most marked under the head "Other fees," amounted to more than Rs. 5,00,000 and that in expenditure to more than Rs. 81,000 than in the previous year.

Chittagong Hill Tracts.

129. The above paragraphs on Criminal and Civil Justice do not include the figures for the Chittagong Hill Tracts which were declared, by a Notification of the 3rd January 1921, to be "backward tracts" under section 52 A of of the Government of India Act. The courts in these tracts are not subordinate to the Administration of Justice.

High Court, the Deputy Commissioner's Court being the chief court of the district and the Court of the Commissioner of Chittagong Division being the supreme court.

Criminal Justice.

130. The number of offences reported during the year 1928 was 513, of which 301 were returned as true, and 279 were brought to trial. Five hundred and forty-eight persons were under trial; of these 352 were acquitted or discharged and 145 were convicted. In the cases ending in conviction, one person was sentenced to transportation for life, and nine were sentenced to imprisonment of more than six months; in the other cases the punishments were less. Four persons were whipped for offences under section 380 of the Indian Penal Code.

Civil Justice.

131. Eight hundred civil suits were instituted during the year, the total value of these suits being Rs. 1,20,012. Of the 913 suits before the courts all but 88 were disposed of.

Jails.

[The Report on the Administration of the Jail Department in the Presidency of Bengal for the year 1928.]

Jail population.

132. The average daily population in the jails of Bengal was 14,005 in 1928 against 13,536 in 1927 and 12,771 in 1926. Out of the population of 14,005, 11,021 were male convicts and 106 female convicts. The number had slightly fallen by the end of the year.

Health of prisoners.

133. For the past ten years there has been a steady improvement in the health of prisoners. The average daily number of sick per thousand of the jail population, which for the years 1919-23 was over 40, fell to 29·7 in 1928—the lowest on record. The death rate was 13·5 per mille, which is the lowest figure on record except that of 1925 when the rate was 13·0. The improvement is mainly attributable to the decrease in the number of malarial and dysentery cases: the latter disease, which in former years was a serious menace, has been subdued by improvements in the water supply and more effective sanitary measures. Cases of tuberculosis were in 1928, as in the previous year, higher in number, though there were fewer deaths.

Jail expenditure.

134. The total cost of guarding and maintaining prisoners rose from Rs. 25,09,958 to Rs. 25,55,477. The greater part of the increase is due to an increase in the cost of feeding prisoners.

135. The average period of detention of prisoners awaiting trial is less satisfactory than last year. In Sessions cases it has risen from 42·17 to 45·38 days, and in Magistrate's cases from 19·86 to 21·48 days. In Krishnagar, Burdwan and Dacca the average period for sessions cases was over 10 weeks, and in Rajshahi it was as much as 100 days. Under-trial prisoners.

136. The total earnings of the manufacturing departments of the jails amounted to Rs. 4,17,555. While this represents a satisfactory increase of Rs. 41,000 over the earnings of 1927, it still falls below that of previous years. Considerable difficulty has been experienced in obtaining sufficient customers for jail products. Jail earnings.

137. Among the reforms in jail administration recommended by the Indian and Bengal Jails Committees, prominence was given to the necessity of a well disciplined and contented warder staff. The Legislative Council recognised this necessity and voted the grant required for an increase in the rates of pay. There is still need for better housing of warders and other changes in the conditions of service. Reforms.

The policy of putting into effect the recommendations of the Jails Committees can only be carried out gradually as the provision of funds becomes possible. The large expense involved delays the introduction of many schemes which have been recognised as desirable. They include the provision of whole-time Superintendents in selected district jails, an increase in the clerical staff, the extension of primary education to all the larger central jails, as well as the segregation of habitual and non-habitual prisoners in separate jails, and the provision of separate accommodation for juvenile and adolescent prisoners who are not sent to the Reformatory or the Borstal School.

138. The inmates of the recently founded Borstal Institution showed satisfactory progress in discipline and education. The institution has received valuable help from the After-care Association. Borstal School.

139. The number of juvenile prisoners below the age of 16 confined in jail has greatly decreased. During 1928 the number admitted after conviction was 75 against an average of 230 for the previous three years. This decrease is attributable largely to the operation of the Bengal Children Act, 1922, and to the exercise of more discretion by Magistrates in the districts in which that Act is not in force. Juvenile offenders.

140. Apart from the concentration of weakminded prisoners at Berhampore, no further progress has been possible in the more Separation of prisoners and their education.

effective separation of different classes of prisoners. The experiment in the education of young prisoners at Alipore showed continued success, and it is hoped that the extension of it to other jails will not be long deferred.

Jail punishments.

141. The number of punishments imposed on prisoners was less than that of last year, although the total number of prisoners was greater. There were only five cases of whipping. Fewer punishments had to be inflicted on the warder staff, the morale of which was improved by the better pay and prospects of the service introduced from November 1928.

Advisory Boards.

142. Advisory Boards for the premature release of prisoners eligible under the rules were held half-yearly in each of the five Central Jails. One hundred and sixty-five prisoners were brought before the Boards; of this number 103 were recomended for release, the other cases being rejected or deferred. Government eventually released 93 of those recommended.

Registration.

[Statistical Returns of the Registration Department in the Presidency of Bengal for the year 1928.]

143. There were 418 offices open at the end of the year as against 417 at the end of 1927.

Financial results.

144. The total income of the Registration Department fell from Rs. 40,08,373 in 1927 to Rs. 39,85,562, a decrease of 0·5 per cent. The total expenditure rose from Rs. 18,91,204 in 1927 to Rs. 20,40,492, an increase of 7·8 per cent. The decrease in income was due to the decrease in registration. Of the increase in expenditure Rs. 66,282 was on account of the increase in the rate of remuneration of extra muharrirs.

Number of Registrations.

145. There was a slight decrease of 0·4 per cent. in the total number of registrations, the figures being 19,50,989 in 1927 and 19,41,510 in 1928. There were however large variations in some districts. In Chittagong district a decrease of 11·9 per cent. was attributed by the District Registrar to the settlement operations which were nearing completion. Good harvests and settlement operations were assigned as the reasons for a decrease of 10·2 per cent. in the district of the 24-Parganas, whilst in Midnapore district the high price of land, which induced people to sell rather than mortgage, was the reason given for a decrease of 9·9 per cent., chiefly under the head of mortgages. On the other hand

an increase in registrations was recorded in the district of Birbhum in the Burdwan Division (6·2 per cent.), the districts of Nadia and Murshidabad (12·8 per cent.) in the Presidency Division, the districts of the Dacca Division, the increase being most marked in the district of Mymensingh (7·9 per cent.), and in the districts of Rajshahi (1·9 per cent.), Dinajpur (1·7 per cent.), Rangpur (4·6 per cent.), Pabna (6·7 per cent.) and Malda (·4 per cent.) in the Rajshahi Division. The increase in the district of Murshidabad was attributed by the District Registrar to the failure of crops during 1927 and the high price of food. The reasons given for the increase of 7·9 per cent. in Mymensingh were the low prices obtained for jute, the high price of food and the migration of several agriculturists to Assam after disposing of their lands.

Working of the Marriage Act of 1872.

146. Under the special Marriage Act III of 1872, 49 marriages were registered during the year 1928 against 69 in 1927. Out of these, 39 were registered in Calcutta, 6 in Dacca, 2 in Howrah and 1 each in Midnapore and Chittagong. At the end of the year 1928 there were 43 Marriage Registrars including 28 ex-officio Registrars as in the previous year. Of these Marriage Registrars only 11 registered marriages during the year.

Working of the Muhammadan Registration Act and Kazi's Act.

147. The number of offices at the end of the year 1928 was 364 against 360 at the close of the preceding year. The number of ceremonies including marriages and divorces registered during the year was 101,798 against 102,493 in the preceding year, showing a decrease of 0·6 per cent. The receipts, including gratuities paid to Muhammadan Registrars, increased by 1·1 per cent. and amounted to Rs. 2,21,774-7. The average income of Muhammadan Registrars and Kazis during the year 1928 was Rs. 609.

CHAPTER III-B—PROTECTION.

Municipal and Local Self-Government Departments, Calcutta Corporation.

Personnel.

148. Mr. B. K. Basu was elected Mayor and Maulvi M. Abdur Razzak was elected Deputy Mayor.

Finances.

149. The revenue account of the Corporation opened with a balance of Rs. 98,99,010. The receipts during the year amounted to Rs. 2,28,67,239 and the payments to Rs. 2,19,22,477. Adjusting assets and liabilities of the previous year and taking into account those of the year under report, the income for the year amounted to Rs. 2,28,43,155 and the expenditure to Rs. 2,20,68,507. On the basis of actual receipts and payments there was a balance of Rs. 1,08,43,772, of which Rs. 47,10,181 was in cash. The balance consists of stores in stock (Rs. 5,72,704) and advances (Rs. 55,60,887) including Rs. 43,59,304 being temporary advance from revenue for financing the scheme for the extension of water-supply and other capital works to be recouped on the raising of loans.

Towards the end of January 1929 the Corporation obtained the sanction of Government to the raising of three 5 per cent. loans of Rs. 25 lakhs, Rs. 25 lakhs and Rs. 36 lakhs having currencies of 28 years, 29 years and 30 years, respectively. The first two loans were not issued during the year 1928-29. Of the loan of Rs. 36 lakhs, Rs. 20 lakhs were reserved under section 113 of the Calcutta Municipal Act, 1923, with the sanction of Government for issue at par to and in the name of the Corporation for investment of sinking and other funds and the balance of Rs. 16 lakhs was issued to the public in March 1929. Against this issue Rs. 4,88,500 was raised in that month (1928-29) and the balance of Rs. 11,11,500 early in 1929-30. No debenture loan was repaid during the year, but Rs. 5,027 was repaid to Government on account of the loans of the added areas. The total indebtedness of the Corporation at the end of the year stood at Rs. 7,21,02,752 including Rs. 74,59,792 on account of the sterling debenture loan of £500,000. Against this indebtedness there was an accumulation of Rs. 1,46,35,649 in the sinking funds. The total actual liability for interest, contributions to sinking funds and instalments towards repayment of loans taken from Government by the old municipalities of Maniktolla and Garden Reach amounted to Rs. 47,33,529 during the year.

Assessment Department.

150. As a result of general revision of assessment and the construction of new buildings there was an increase of Rs. 32,35,300 in the assessed annual valuation of the city which stood at Rs. 9,60,69,341.

Survey Department.

151. The department prepared plans and estimates for 149 projects involving an area of about 148 bighas of land at an estimated cost of about Rs. 56¾ lakhs and acquired nearly 5 bighas of land at an estimated cost of about Rs. 4 lakhs.

Collection Department.

152. The total gross demand on account of the consolidated rate including the balance outstanding at the end of the previous year was Rs. 1,85,37,821, of which Rs. 1,70,19,686 was collected, Rs. 7,38,247 cancelled on account of holdings being vacant, and demands aggregating Rs. 17,271 were cancelled as irrecoverable. The percentage of collection on the net current demand was 98·18 against 98·2 in the previous year. The decrease in the percentage is slight and is due mainly to the issue of a large number of fresh and supplementary bills and to other causes beyond the control of the Collector.

License Department.

153. The total collection during the year 1928-29 on account of license taxes amounted to Rs. 19,69,750, of which about 66·3 was on account of the tax on trades and professions, Rs. 4,03,870 on account of the carriage and animal tax, and Rs. 1,96,600 was on account of the fee for the registration of carts. The total number of licenses issued during the year was 72,590 and the total collection under the Licensed Warehouse and Fire Brigade Act amounted to Rs. 1,57,880.

Lighting Department.

154. There were 18,321 gas lamps in the city at the end of the year, while the number of oil and electric lamps were 880 and 2,376, respectively. As in the previous year, the electric lighting was maintained departmentally throughout the city. There was an increase of 162 electric and 142 gas lamps during the year. The improvement of lighting was pushed on as far as possible in some of the important streets both in the northern and southern parts of the city. The lighting in Chowringhee, Garden Reach and Central Avenue area has been greatly improved by the provision of electric lights.

Water-supply.

155. The average daily quantity of filtered water supplied during the year amounted to about 39 million gallons and of unfiltered water to about 49·6 million gallons, making a total of 88·6 million gallons approximately. The supply per head per day was 36 gallons of filtered water and 54·6 gallons of unfiltered water (based on the census population of 1921).

The arrangements for supplementing the supply of filtered water by means of lorries, carts and a water-boat continued in Garden Reach as in the previous year. To further reinforce the supply, four additional tube-wells were sunk, viz., two in Kalighat, one in Maniktolla and one in Hastings.

Further progress was made with the works in connection with the Water-supply Extension Scheme. At Pulta a new 54″ suction pipe was brought into commission and connections were effected with the new unfiltered water delivery mains after cutting off the connections to the old delivery mains. The new settling tank was connected to the filtration system on the 4th June 1928 and six new filters were put into commission. The extra work in connection with the construction of cross dams in the old settling tank is progressing well and is expected to be completed shortly. Out of 18 new filters, nine have been handed over by the contractors for charging with water and the remaining three will shortly be made over. As regards the remaining six filters, masonry works, false flooring and pipe connection have been practically completed and these are now being charged with filtering materials.

The new pumping plant under Contracts Nos. 10 and 11 has been erected at Pulta and Tallah and arrangements are being made to have trial runs. The buildings for housing the plant both at Pulta and Tallah have been completed with the exception of some minor details.

The new 60″ main from Pulta to Tallah has been practically completed and further progress has been made in connection with the laying of zone mains to the centres of distribution within the city. An extra supply of nearly 12 million gallons has been provided shortly after the year closed by bringing into use some of the works already completed at Pulta and Tallah and it is hoped that the full supply will be available in about 18 months.

The Cleveland Bridge Manufacturing Co., who contracted with the Corporation for the manufacture, supply and laying in prepared trenches steel pipes of various sizes, preferred a claim against the Corporation on account of losses alleged to have been sustained by them owing to the work having taken much longer than the three years originally provided. The Corporation and the contractors eventually came to a settlement by the former paying a lump sum of £40,000 and certain other extras, and by agreeing to take over from the contractors at an agreed price all pipes which remain unlaid on 31st August 1929. The Corporation have appointed a committee to enquire into the circumstances resulting in these payments.

Drainage Department.

156. A scheme has been outlined under which the area to the south of Tolly's Nullah is treated as a separate drainage entity and it is proposed to disconnect the whole area to the west of Tolly's Nullah from the Ballygunge Pumping Station and to carry both the sewage and storm water to a point near Akra and be discharged into the Hooghly at all times of the tide, the sewage being treated by the activated sludge process.

The drainage of Manicktola cannot be dealt with unless the question of the main drainage and the outfall is decided. As a temporary measure, to deal with the surface water, four pumps driven by oil engines have been installed at four different syphons on the new cut canal.

It has been decided to strengthen the pumping capacity at the Palmer's Bridge Pumping Station by installing an additional pump capable of pumping 7,500 cft. per minute. Tenders were invited and discharged thrice as no suitable tender was received.

To relieve the flooding of central Calcutta, a storm water drain has been designed to carry off the storm water into the Hooghly. The sewer is being laid in the new roadway between Central Avenue and Strand Road. The work is being carried out under the supervision of the Calcutta Improvement Trust, the cost being divided equally between the Calcutta Improvement Trust and the Corporation.

157. Forty new bustees were surveyed and standard plans were prepared in respect of 33 bustee areas. Huts were cleared from 35 bighas of land, and 1¼ miles of bustee roads and passages were opened up. Fifty-nine connected privies and three bathing platforms were constructed and 61 private streets have been improved. Bustee Department.

158. The daily average quantity of refuse dealt with was 1,337 tons, and the total expenditure on street cleansing, the incinerator and the Municipal Railway amounted to Rs. 12,00,832. The construction of the new refuse platform at Chingreeghatta is in progress. Conservancy.

159. The total expenditure on road repairs amounted to Rs. 7,82,986. In addition, a sum of Rs. 7,22,586 was spent in paving roads with asphaltum and Rs. 1,22,618 on minor road improvements. Roads.

160. The total number of applications submitted for sanction was 9,954 against 9,702 in the previous year. Sanction was given to 25 per cent. of the plans received in the case of masonry buildings and 45 per cent. in the case of huts. No fewer than 2,770 notices were served in respect of insecure buildings against 1,977 in the previous year. Building Department.

The inspection and examination of old and insecure buildings by the four Building Inspectors was continued, and a general survey of supported and projected verandahs on almost all important and wider roads was taken in hand.

161. The total number of births registered during the year. 1928 in the city including added areas was 22,001 or 20·4 per mille. This shows a slight increase both for Calcutta proper and for the Health Department.

added areas as compared with the figures for the previous year. The death-rate was 31·6 per mille as against 34·1 in the previous year. There was an increase in the mortality rates from cholera, enteric, measles, respiratory diseases and plague, while there was a fall in the figures for small-pox, tuberculosis, malaria, kala-azar and other fevers, dysentery, diarrhœa and influenza. There were outbreaks of epidemics of cholera and small-pox in the city which were responsible for 2,584 and 558 deaths with death-rates of 2·3 and ·51 per mille, respectively. There were four deaths from plague in the city. Deaths among infants under one year numbered 6,138, giving a rate of 278·9 per thousand registered births, which was much below the rate of 339·7 per thousand of the previous year.

The Lady Health Visitors and midwives employed by the Corporation continued to do very useful work. They delivered 6,541 cases and removed 137 difficult cases of labour to hospitals. Excluding still births the rate of infantile mortality amongst cases attended by the Corporation midwives during the first ten days was only 19·2 per thousand, while the general infantile mortality rate within the 1st week in the city was 116·9 per thousand. There were only 13 maternal deaths among the women delivered by the Corporation staff.

Food inspection.

162. The total number of samples of foodstuffs of all kinds analysed during the year was 5,659, of which 833 were found to be adulterated. Two hundred and twenty-three out of 907 samples of milk, 265 out of 1,510 samples of ghee, 109 out of 1,000 samples of mustard oil, 42 out of 107 samples of sago, and 96 out of 813 samples of sweetmeats were found adulterated. The total number of prosecutions instituted during the year was 2,506, of which 1,712 ended in conviction, and the fines imposed amounted to Rs. 31,615.

Markets.

163. The total revenue from the five markets in 1928-29 amounted to Rs. 12,22,490 against Rs. 12,08,607 in the preceding year. There was an increase in revenue of Rs. 13,883.

Education.

164. The total amount of expenditure incurred by the Corporation for educational purposes of all kinds amounted to Rs. 8,19,205 as against Rs. 6,25,361 in the previous year. At the end of the year there were 199 Corporation free primary schools with 24,368 pupils against 183 schools and 23,063 pupils in the previous year.

Of the total number of pupils on rolls, 14,824 were boys and 9,544 girls as compared with 14,946 boys and 8,117 girls at the end of the previous year. Of the total number of schools, 10 were part-time and where held in the morning while 189 were day

schools, the corresponding figures of the preceding year being 15 and 168, respectively. At the close of the year there were 827 teachers in all the Corporation schools, of whom 547 were men and 280 women.

Calcutta Improvement Trust.

Improvement schemes.

165. The most important work the Trust had in hand during the year was the construction of the main east and west thoroughfare between Maniktala and Strand Road. The portion between Upper Circular Road and Central Avenue had almost been completed before the commencement of the year. Good progress was made in Scheme No. VII-F, viz., the portion of the thoroughfare between Central Avenue and Upper Circular Road. The construction of the new storm water sewer for draining an area of about 163 acres between Central Avenue and Strand Road was carried on almost throughout the year. In Schemes Nos. VII and VII-E (Central Avenue and side roads between Bowbazar Street and Esplanade) the work done included the completion of the side roads, the paving of lengths of footpaths opposite completed buildings and the construction of refuge islands in the main roadways with the object of safeguarding pedestrians and controlling motor traffic. The principal feature of Scheme No. VIII-C is a road 100 ft. wide connecting new Park Street and new Theatre Road with old Ballygunge Road. Land acquisition in this scheme is practically completed and the engineering work well in hand.

Scheme No. XII-A (Park Street widening from Wood Street to Loudon Street) was completed except for its new lighting installation. Noticeable progress was made in Scheme No. XV-B (Ballygunge Avenue and side roads). The tramway on Ballygunge Avenue which the Trust agreed to subsidise was opened for traffic in June 1928, and has already proved a success. For the period ending on 31st March 1929 the subsidy which the Board were called upon to pay amounted only to Rs. 3,608-14-4, and it seems probable that they will not be liable for any further payment. Of the new schemes published during the year, the most important were Schemes Nos. VII-H and VII-J, which provide for the construction of further lengths of Central Avenue between Beadon Street and Grey Street and Grey Street and Shambazar Street, respectively. The former has since been sanctioned by Government and the Collector has started land acquisition proceedings.

Open spaces.

166. Mention may be made of the improvements effected at the Dhakuria Lake and the surrounding park, which is now a popular place of resort in the cool of the evening. An extension

of the lake at its east end is in progress, and it is proposed to make another extension westwards in the near future to within a short distance of Russa Road. The Cossipore-Chitpore open space is also rapidly taking shape as a public park and a recreation ground for the north of the city. Land-raising was completed for the Eastern Park in Scheme No. VIII (near Park Circus). Other parks and open spaces completed during the year were on the site of the old Alms House in Amherst Street (Scheme No. XXX), open spaces in Schemes No. XV-A (near Nepal Bhattacharji's Street), No. XV-B (one near Lansdowne Road Extension and the other at Monoharpukur Road) and No. XVI (near Gangadhar Banerjee Lane).

Bridges.

167. Good progress was made with the reconstruction of bridges over the Circular Canal. The Maniktala Bridge was completed and opened to traffic and the Beliaghatta Bridge was approaching completion. Preliminary work on the Narkeldanga Bridge was also begun before the close of the year.

Rehousing schemes.

168. Further rehousing schemes were not undertaken by the Board, but special facilities were offered to dishoused persons for purchasing land for reinstatement purposes, and a number of persons were reinstated on special terms.

Finance.

169. It was estimated that Rs. 25,00,000 would be realized from the sale of land during the year, but the actual cash receipts amounted to Rs. 32,75,000. There was a keen demand for land on and in the neighbourhood of Ballygunge Avenue and the receipts from sales amounted to Rs. 7,45,000 against an estimate of Rs. 5,00,000. The revenue receipts of the Trust amounted to Rs. 51,91,000 and the expenditure to Rs. 29,03,000, giving a surplus of Rs. 22,88,000. The capital receipts including sales of land totalled Rs. 35,37,000. The expenditure on land acquisition was Rs. 46,84,000 and on engineering works Rs. 14,74,000 as against Rs. 40,00,000 and Rs. 14,50,000, respectively, in the previous year.

Municipalities outside Calcutta.

[Reports from Commissioners of Divisions on the working of the Municipalities in Bengal (except Calcutta) during 1928-29.]

Number of municipalities.

170. The number of municipalities remained 116 and two changes only occurred in their boundaries, those of Baranagore and Kushtia being enlarged. Settlement works in the 24-Parganas showed incidentally that several municipalities in this district had lost their boundaries at one point or another, where through defect of drafting or lapse of years the original line could no longer be

traced. In course of time the department will put this right by notifying the boundary line on up-to-date methods, with the help of the settlement map.

Elections.

171. Municipal general elections occurred as usual in about one-third of the municipalities, 42 to be exact, and on the whole show a growing interest in the exercise of municipal franchise. In Comilla 1,900 voters polled out of 2,635 on the register; Bally polled over 80 per cent. of its voting strength; while one of the wards in Kotechandpur sent every voter to the polling station. Quite the most difficult problem about these borough elections, and one in which little progress has been made since the rejection of the Bengal Municipal Bill, lies in the facility with which reference to the civil courts can forestall the constitution of the newly elected board. Two years have elapsed since the municipal election in Ranaghat and the Commissioners of the new board are still awaiting the termination of civil court proceedings before they can succeed the old. The elections were similarly frustrated in five other municipalities including the important town of Dacca.

Population and rate-payers.

172. Municipal affairs cannot be viewed in their proper perspective without recalling that the total population of municipal areas outside Calcutta comprises only a little over two millions, no attempt being made to adjust the census figure year by year, and that the number of rate-payers in the year under review had risen only to 330,000 or 16·4 per cent. of the urban population. In ten cases the number of rate-payers was in fact less than a tenth of the population of the town, but these are of an exceptional character, eight being mill municipalities with a floating labour population and the other two the hill municipalities of Darjeeling and Kurseong.

Municipal meetings.

173. Municipal boards met on 2,450 occasions, found themselves short of a quorum at 123 of these meetings, and adjourned 185 of the same number. A dozen municipal boards stagnated with less than one meeting a month. On the other hand, the Board of Hooghly-Chinsurah met on no less than 61 occasions, not always however in sufficient strength to do business.

Rates and taxes.

174. No feature of municipal life in Bengal is more likely to impress the observer acquainted with the progress of local government in Europe than the lightness of the burden placed on rate-payers in municipal taxation. Only in the municipality of Darjeeling does the incidence of taxation exceed Rs. 10 per head of population closely approached by Kurseong with an incidence of Rs. 9-9 per head. In the plains these figures are approached by Howrah Municipality with an incidence of Rs. 8-15 per head notwithstanding its large population below and just above the rate-paying level, and the two next most expensive towns to live in, from the

view point of municipal taxation, are Chittagong and Burdwan with an incidence of Rs. 6 and Rs. 5-3 per head (taken to the nearest anna). In seventeen municipalities the incidence is below Re. 1 per head. There was, however, an upward tendency in the total receipts from municipal rates and taxes, returned at Rs. 67·7 lakhs as against Rs. 65·3 in the previous year, swelled, as some Divisional Commissioners report, by disproportionate assessment of Government and railway premises. There was a steady and welcome tendency to substitute the more equitable and productive rate on holdings for the rate on persons. General or partial revision of assessment took place in 61 municipalities, but the figures given for the increase resulting are largely fallacious, as the municipal assessment appeal committees are almost invariably disposed to nullify the virtue of a just and strict revision of valuations, when obtained by liberal reductions on appeal. There seem grounds to believe that if municipal assessment is to result in valuations furnishing an income in correspondence with the nominal rate, and which therefore are fair both to rich and poor alike, some quasi-judicial machinery for revaluation will have to be devised, immune, as municipal assessment committees are too often not immune, from a tone of compliancy to objections and from anxiety about retention of office on the board.

Collections.

175. Though the percentage of realisations to demand fell by as much as ·6 per cent. (95·05—94·45), a sum of nearly three lakhs more was realised in collection of rates (Rs. 66,42,000 in all) than in the previous year. In individual towns the percentage of realisations sank below 80 in Bansbaria and Bankura. On the other hand, the municipal authorities of Nalchiti and Garulia showed, as they did last year, what can be done in a well-assessed town, by collecting the whole of their demand without remission, and Titagarh and Champdani only fell short of this accomplishment by percentages of ·2 and ·3, respectively. The infant municipality of Gauripur entered on its existence with the creditable percentage of 99·2 in realisation, and Rangpur and Raniganj (99·1 and 87·68, respectively) showed a vast improvement on figures for the previous year.

The total remission of rates rose by Rs. 75,000 to Rs. 3·37 lakhs. Rajpur and Barasat Municipalities wrote off more than a quarter of their income from rates in this manner, while Bankura and Bally remitted one-fifth of their demand. The figures for Bally, however, were affected by certain individual large premises.

The outstanding arrears increased by over one lakh of rupees to Rs. 16,85,000, approximately 25 per cent. of the demand

realised. These figures are however unduly weighted by arrears of over six and a half lakhs of rupees in Howrah and over two lakhs in Dacca. In nine other municipalities the unrealised balances exceeded Rs. 25,000, far too high a figure for the financial capacities of these rural townships.

Income and expenditure.

176. The total receipts, including opening balances, amounted to Rs. 129·6 lakhs against Rs. 112·1 lakhs in the preceding year and the total expenditure to Rs. 114·5 lakhs as against Rs. 96·3. So small at the best is the scale of municipal activities outside Calcutta that the receipts by the Titagarh Municipality of a grant of eight lakhs of rupees and an advance of thirteen lakhs towards its sewerage scheme and expenditure of a little over ten lakhs on this object was sufficient to deflect the total figures materially from normal.

Closing balance.

177. The total balances to the credit of the municipalities at the end of the year had decreased from Rs. 15·73 lakhs to Rs. 15·06 lakhs. It is notoriously difficult to fix the point at which legitimate expenditure of the year's income on the welfare of the town borders on unsound finance, but it is quite clear that in several cases outstanding liabilities reduced the true balance to a precariously small figure or even to an actual deficit. This was noticeably the case for instance in the townships of Hooghly-Chinsurah, Madaripur and Baruipur (since suspended) with liabilities of Rs. 52,800, Rs. 2,700 and Rs. 4,100, respectively, against balances of Rs. 1,317, Rs. 84 and Rs. 205. A similar position in Mymensingh was among the factors which necessitated a special enquiry into its administration after the close of the year. The difficulties of a municipality involved in land acquisition were illustrated in the case of Dacca where increase of an award by the appellate court resulted in a peremptory demand of Rs. 36,682 which could only be met by an overdraft on the Imperial Bank.

Education.

178. The total expenditure on education, including the Government grant of Rs. 1·3 lakhs, rose from Rs. 4·3 lakhs in the preceding year to Rs. 4·57 lakhs, expenditure on primary education within this total showing a corresponding rise. The municipalities which principally contributed to the increase, were Berhampore, Ghittagong and Burdwan, Berhampore spending Rs. 15,620 as against Rs. 3,084 in the previous year, and Chittagong Rs. 25,269 as against Rs. 22,000. Rangpur, Madaripur and Barisal reported decreased expenditure, but the figures for the previous year included special construction. An education cess is at present levied by the Berhampore and Rangpur Municipalities and produced an income of Rs. 4,657. Progress with the Biss Scheme for primary education is reported in Dacca which opened

three primary schools in addition to the three in existence, Burdwan with a primary school in each of its five wards and in Budge Budge and Chandpur.

Municipalities have only touched the fringe of the problem of providing education for the young children within their areas. Outside Calcutta there are in urban areas about 270,000 children between the ages of 6 and 11, while primary schools and the primary classes of secondary schools can hold at most just over 100,000 pupils.

The problem of "wastage" in these schools which results in such rapid diminution in the number of pupils as we ascend from the lowest class is one which has received little attention from the authorities. And yet its existence renders very illusory the advance towards literacy which is claimed.

Chittagong alone, by making primary education compulsory throughout the municipality, has realized its responsibilities. A fair measure of success has attended its efforts, and there are now 2,500 pupils being taught in 38 primary schools, but there also the prevalent "wastage" is all too apparent.

This municipality would gladly go on to the free compulsory primary education of girls did its powers under the Act extend to this; and, as far as its resources permit, is opening a number of girls' primary schools to pave the way for this measure.

A rough estimate has been made of the money that will be required by urban authorities before they are able to give primary education, even of the cheapest, to all their children, and the figures are about Rs. 13 lakhs recurring and double that amount non-recurring.

Water-supply.

179. The total expenditure on urban water-supply fell from Rs. 14·3 lakhs to Rs. 12·05 lakhs, a decrease the more regrettable as this comparatively small figure includes the maintenance of existing works as well as new construction. One of the causes tending to slow down progress with new works is the difficulty so often found by towns-people in realising the local contributions in the expectation of which they have felt justified in approaching Government for a grant. When Government sanction the grant they naturally require the local resources promised to be collected before the grant is paid. These dribble in more slowly than was expected and the time is past for the necessary formalities of budget procedure to be completed before January with the result that payment of the Government grant must await the next financial year and twelve months are lost. With no prospect of an immediate grant local efforts relax and too often the same process repeats itself again. The most important new work under construction

was the third section of the Dacca scheme, and work on new projects was also in progress in Burdwan, Faridpur and Asansol, while that at Chandpur was brought on to the list for construction in 1929-30. Jalpaiguri, Noakhali, Narayanganj, English Bazar, Bhatpara and Rajshahi were also interested in new schemes some of which received sanction at various stages.

Recourse to tube-wells in urban areas is an interesting step noticed by two or three Divisional Commissioners. Several recent projects have in fact been based on tube-wells of large bore, but apart from these municipal boards such as Rajshahi, Pabna and Bogra have found it useful, especially during shortage of water-supply, to sink small tube-wells without any subsidiary piping to give local relief in the poorer quarters. As a rule this policy has served its purpose, but it has proved a mistake to aim at cheapness by sinking shallow tube-wells in the vicinity of the river, a temptation which certain small towns in the 24-Parganas have cause to regret.

There is a constant risk in the rural towns, whether through want of experience or of funds, of insufficient attention to the proper mechanical upkeep of existing plant. The water works in Comilla broke down soon after they were opened and a three lakhs scheme has ended for the present in improvised pumping from a tank, while the risk to the town people of Mymensingh from deterioration of the pumping plant eventually led to the intervention of Government.

Metering of house connections as a means to prevent waste has always been a subject of contention. Unfortunately one board at least has assumed an authority which it does not possess to continue to grant house connections without meters in spite of the statutory rule to the contrary now in force.

180. Expenditure on conservancy rose from Rs. 22·7 lakhs to Rs. 33·7 lakhs. Conservancy and drainage.

No feature of municipal finances gives a more unfavourable impression than the inveterate tendency to debit to the general funds the cost of conservancy, a charge which should be met from the latrine rate designed for the purpose. The extent of this drain on the general fund amounted to an excess of over five lakhs in expenditure over receipts from the latrine fund, or nearly 25 per cent. of the expenditure—these figures excluding the abnormal items at Titagarh. Rate-payers would rather see the funds for general urban well-being curtailed than a rate levied for conservancy that meets its full cost; and the municipal boards too often follow the line of least resistance, with this demoralising result.

Several municipalities reported labour trouble with the sweepers during the year, overcome in most instances by some small concession. The housing of municipal sweepers in many cases presents legitimate grounds for complaint and rural townships will have seriously to face the problem of recruiting this imported labour of a monopoly type. The total expenditure on drainage increased from Rs. 3·2 lakhs to Rs. 3·7 lakhs spent mostly on various small measures for the improvement of surface drainage.

Lighting.

181. Expenditure under this head was practically stationary at six lakhs. Electric light is gradually finding a place in the larger rural townships, but Bally near Calcutta is the only municipality to report its adoption as a new measure in this year. The refusal of the Burdwan Municipality to raise the special rate to meet the cost of electric lighting which the Act places in their hands is another instance of the tendency to poach on the general fund for special services mentioned in the paragraph on conservancy. The primitive system of lighting in the smaller rural municipalities remains, it is to be feared, the constable's handicap of which the police authorities have so often complained.

Public health.

182. The total expenditure on the pay of Health Officers and Sanitary Inspectors for the first time exceeded two lakhs, and if there is any department of municipal works in which a sense of forwardness and enterprise is apparent, it is in that concerned with public health. The work of tank filling and jungle clearing went on as usual, but, as one Commissioner shrewdly observes, notwithstanding the self-laudatory reports of townships year by year on this point the insanitary tanks and the oppressive undergrowth are still there. There is more sense of reality in the reports of action taken to counter epidemic disease. The chlorinating of the water-supply, as in the town of Burdwan, is now perhaps a matter of routine and carried sometimes to excess. All divisions report attention to vaccination, and examination by school health officers of over twelve hundred school boys in Dacca showed that only 54 were unprotected. In Bogra it is specially noticed that private practitioners co-operated with the municipal health authorities in insisting on vaccination, and the municipality of Bhatpara prosecuted over 100 cases of breach of the Vaccination Act. More interesting, because a newer movement and because of its incalculable possibilities, is the interest shown in inoculation against cholera. Here again it is difficult to avoid mentioning the town of Dacca where during an epidemic over twelve thousand persons were inoculated and only one death was reported amongst them. Numerous other towns especially in Eastern Bengal report their success with inoculation against cholera, and there is good reason

to hope that in the short space of three years this form of protection has firmly established itself in favour with the health authorities of rural townships in Bengal. The usual efforts to cope with malaria and kala-azar were continued with the assistance of Government in grants and allotments of quinine, and the Birnagar Palli Mandal again distinguished itself as a model for local organisations framed especially to combat malaria. Yet another aspect of public health work in which municipalities show increasing interest year by year is the checking of adulteration of foodstuffs exposed for sale. No less than fifteen tons of adulterated foodstuffs were destroyed in Dacca town, and fines imposed in Narayanganj amounted to Rs. 725. More than half the 610 samples of foodstuff sent for examination from Dacca to the Public Health Laboratory were found to be adulterated. Classes for dais were opened in towns such as Chittagong and Krishnagar and somewhat sporadic efforts were made to eliminate water-hyacinth.

183. Expenditure on public works decreased from Rs. 12·4 lakhs to Rs. 10·9 lakhs, a sure sign that municipalities are falling behindhand in meeting the elementary material needs of town life, especially in point of communications. The net decrease however in the plains municipalities does not much exceed Rs. 1 lakh. Public works.

Complaints are universal of the rapid deterioration of urban roads through the increase of motor bus traffic and the insufficiency of municipal resources to meet this new type of wear and tear on the roads. Too much cannot be expected from the road fund constituted with the 2-anna increase in the tax on petrol, the proceeds of which will be devoted primarily to arterial and inter-provincial roads and will not go very far even in this limited sphere. From Dacca, Chittagong and other municipalities there has come a demand however for the taxation of motor vehicles as a source of income towards expenditure on the roads which they damage, and Government hope before long to respond to this demand by bringing forward in a revised form the Bill for the Taxation of Motor Vehicles which was shelved after reference to a Select Committee three years ago. The total mileage of roads in urban areas was 1,383 miles metalled and 1,641 miles unmetalled.

184. The total indebtedness of municipalities outside Calcutta amounted only to Rs. 26·4 lakhs, a sum which indicates the limited scale of their capital works in recent years, and beyond a new loan of Rs. 62,734 to the Suri Municipality for water-works and drainage, and the success of the Jiaganj-Azimganj Municipality in obtaining a small private loan free of interest, there is practically no feature to record during the year. Loans.

Audit and accounts.

185. The audit of municipal accounts is a matter to which Government have recently been paying increased attention. A corollary of the financial freedom conferred on these local bodies, in pursuance of the policy of the last decade, is a strict and effective audit going hand in hand with insistence on publicity of the audited report and on attention on the part of the municipal authority to the defects reported. Government are by no means satisfied that the present rules and system afford an adequate guarantee for these essentials and are examining the whole matter further. In the meanwhile it is proposed to give publicity to the annual report in which the Examiner of Local Accounts reviews the results of audit in the previous year, a valuable summary of current financial tendencies which has up to the present remained unknown.

Government readily appreciate the handicap of an honorary executive served by a poorly qualified and sometimes under-paid municipal office staff. At the same time the delay in dealing with audit notes, of which the Local Examiner and Divisional Commissioners complain year after year, is by no means an unavoidable consequence of this position. Still less can it be taken as adequate excuse for the confusion in accounts and the far too frequent defalcations which audit has brought to light, or for the general attitude of leniency on the part of Commissioners and executives to the municipal employé in a position of trust whose financial delinquencies are established. There were as many as five cases of prosecution for embezzlement on the part of municipal employees in one stage or another during the year; and in at least two other cases of embezzlement in the Jamalpur and Jhalakati Municipalities the Chairmen and Commissioners accepted a settlement without criminal proceedings.

General remarks.

186. It is not a very profitable task to attempt to sum up the plus and minus account of progress in municipal life and activities in Bengal for there is not much variation to be found in the Commissioners' reports. The evils of faction and the reluctance of municipal authorities to face unpopularity by imposing adequate taxation, or even by realizing through distraint when necessary the full dues of the year on the too often inadequate scale of rates imposed, are prominently mentioned in this year's reports as they have been in the past. Too often the more immediate and material requisites of urban well-being—good roads and good drains—suffer from the apathy engendered by the restricted income of the town. On the other hand, there are undoubted signs of vitality in the increasing interest in municipal elections and in the response by municipal boards to the encouragement offered by Government for the development of public health activities.

District Boards.

[Reports of the Commissioners of Divisions on the working of District Boards in Bengal during the year 1928-29.]

District Boards.

187. There are twenty-six district boards in Bengal. The number of persons in the position of member, now much sought after, was 683, of whom two-thirds owed their position to election and one-third to nomination. The District Board of Darjeeling was the only board constituted under the old system with the District Officer nominated to the Chair, the chairmen of all other bodies being private members elected to office by the board. The number of meetings convened during the year was 428 of which only five failed through lack of attendance, and the interest of the Jessore District Board in its affairs is to be measured by the high percentage of 98·00 in members present.

Local Boards.

188. Beyond their function as electoral colleges for district boards it cannot be said that local boards, with their delegated resources and powers, attract great interest; and it is primarily to meet the legal position arising from the establishment of union boards in Jalpaiguri and Malda that their number is now being increased. During the year 1928-29 there were 82 boards with a membership of 1,343 (an increase of four over the previous year) through revision in Birbhum and in all but seven local boards the Chair was filled by election from among the private members. In four of these seven cases an official held office by election. The average number of meetings convened was between 9 and 10 with a slightly higher percentage of abortive meetings than in the case of district boards.

Income, expenditure and balances.

189. The total receipts and expenditure of district boards in 1928-29 amount to Rs. 1·56 crores and Rs. 1·52 crores, an increase of 10·5 lakhs and 2·7 lakhs, respectively, over the totals for the previous year. No less than three lakhs of the increase in receipts can be traced to Government grants. The inelasticity of the revenue from cess which constitutes about half the total income is one of the great handicaps of district boards, and the proceeds from this source rose only by 1·5 lakhs. The actual net balance to the credit of district boards at the end of the year was Rs. 17·6 lakhs as against 15·9 lakhs. This increase represents no change in the financial status of district boards but is due to failure in one district and another for various reasons to work off special grants or capital allotments.

Education.

190. The expenditure rose by Rs. 1·4 lakhs to Rs. 36·6 lakhs of which Government contributed Rs. 21·3 lakhs while other

receipts, including school fees and contributions, amounted to Rs. 77,000. District boards from their own funds spent Rs. 14·6 lakhs against Rs. 12·6 lakhs in the preceding year.

The number of upper and lower primary schools maintained and aided by district boards rose from 46,400 to 47,900 one-fourth of which was for girls. The number of pupils attending these schools was boys 1,268,500 and girls 346,600 against 1,248,500 and 307,800, respectively, in the previous year.

Union boards in several districts continued to maintain free primary schools and some new schools were established during the year. The 24-Parganas District Board pursued their policy of establishing one free primary school in each thana.

There have been cases where district boards have failed to use grants fully or for the specific object for which the money was given.

The District Boards of Bankura, Midnapore, Hooghly and Pabna aided respectively 84, 35, 34 and 70 night schools for the education of the depressed and labouring classes. The Bankura District Board paid a grant of Rs. 550 to the Music School at Vishnupur.

One Technical and Industrial School was maintained by each of the District Boards of Burdwan, Khulna, Mymensingh, Rajshahi and Noakhali. In addition, the district boards aided 58 such schools. This class of institution is gradually gaining in popularity and may in time contribute to the solution of the problem of middle-class unemployment. The Technical and Industrial Schools at Bogra and Pabna are maintained by Government and the boards award scholarships tenable at these institutions. Nadia subsidised four technical and industrial institutions.

The peripatetic weaving schools in the Bankura district are doing good work towards the instruction of the aboriginal tribes. Many of these people are maintaining their families by adopting the profession of weaving. Two such schools are maintained by Government in each of the districts of Bakarganj and Jalpaiguri; and there is a growing demand for more of these in the districts. Those at Bakarganj have been working for the last two years during which period altogether 260 persons were trained in improved methods of weaving and 178 fly-shuttle looms introduced. Other weaving schools maintained or aided by district boards are also doing useful work. Government provincialised two weaving schools in Dinajpur. The District Board of Noakhali appointed an inspector trained at Bolpur for the encouragement of home industry. The Howrah District Board introduced hand-spinning in some middle and primary schools for boys and girls.

Physical culture of students continued to receive the attention of the Bankura and Midnapore District Boards.

Public health and medical relief.

191. In three years the expenditure of district boards on public health has risen, with the help of grants from Government, from twenty-two lakhs to twenty-nine lakhs of rupees. There has sprung into existence an entirely new type of public health organization in the shape of the rural health unit in charge of a trained sanitary inspector for each police-station, the cost of which is met by Government while it remains under the control of the district board. The scheme which was halfway towards completion in 1928-29 involved expenditure of Rs. 3,89,000 by Government during that year, an entirely new expenditure which had found no place at all in budgets before 1926-27. The Sanitary Inspector is usually not a medical practitioner but trained only in public health as distinct from medical practice, and is responsible for precautionary measures against epidemic diseases and emergency action such as disinfection and vaccination when epidemic diseases occur. Commissioners mention their work favourably, especially in the 24-Parganas and Howrah; but the movement is of too recent a growth to obtain full prominence in the reports.

District boards without exception now welcome the new measure of mass inoculation as a preventive against cholera. For instance 50,000 persons were inoculated in Howrah district and 85,000 in Bakarganj.

In vaccination against small-pox the most interesting area was the Malda district, where the district board almost tripled their vaccination staff and seriously set to work to vaccinate every person in the district. The example has since been brought to the notice of other district boards.

Government assisted district boards with the usual grants towards coping with malaria and kala-azar. In some districts there has been a slackening down of kala-azar work due apparently to a genuine reduction of the disease. No such variations are reported on the scale of work against malaria, which continued in full vigour with the help of grants-in-aid and grants of quinine from Government.

The number of dispensaries maintained and aided by district boards continues slowly to rise (530 and 376, respectively, as against 520 and 357 in the previous year) and the figures reported do not include union board dispensaries, all of recent foundation. The carefully administered grant towards the cost of new thana and village dispensaries encourages the opening of dispensaries in new areas, for which alone it can be drawn on, and is tending rapidly to promote the establishment of one dispensary at least in every

Chap. III-B. PROTECTION.

police-station. When every police-station in Bengal has its dispensary and its rural health unit working under the control of the district board (and that standard is already within measurable distance) there will exist the framework of a medical and public health organization for rural areas with which probably no other province in India can vie.

Veterinary works.

192. Expenditure under this head decreased slightly through fortuitous reasons, rather than through curtailment of the existing scale of activities, and totalled only Rs. 2;12 lakhs. With so small a sum spent on the care of animals in rural Bengal it is hardly necessary to dwell on the complaints of inadequacy of the staff and results which several districts acknowledge. Government have recently sanctioned the free supply of serum up to Rs. 70,000 per annum, which some district boards seem actually to have obtained in advance of the formal concession; and it is to be hoped that the saving thereby secured will be applied by district boards to promote their veterinary work, and not merely be taken in reduction of expenditure on this head below the present meagre standard.

Civil works.

193. A decrease in expenditure on Civil Works from Rs. 62·9 lakhs to Rs. 60;8 lakhs is attributable to the abnormal position in the Burdwan District Board. The resources of this district board are influenced by a fluctuating income from the mines, and an ambitious programme of construction taken up in bumper years had suddenly to be curtailed when this income fell, with the result that three lakhs less was spent by this board on civil works in 1928-29 than in the previous year. At the same time it is to be realized that in recent years there has been a general tendency for district boards to spend proportionately less on the maintenance and development of communications, which historically at least is their primary function, than in the more recently developed sphere of the social services. This tendency is shown in a decrease of expenditure on communications to Rs. 34·4 lakhs from Rs. 35·9 lakhs in the previous year notwithstanding famine relief work in Western Bengal. It comes just at a moment when the increase of rural traffic is putting an entirely new strain on rural roads; and the Road Fund intended primarily for arterial and inter-provincial roads will only touch the fringe of the problem.

The mileage of metalled and unmetalled roads was 2,560 and 16,100 as against 2,545 and 15,792, respectively, in the previous year, and in the present position stationary figures are to be welcomed rather than the reverse as a sign that district boards are at least using their resources to maintain the roads they have, and not dissipating them on the extension of a road system which already exceeds their capacity.

Water-supply.

194. If expenditure on roads tends to be of secondary interest to the modern district board, no branch is more popular than that on water-supply, Rs. 19·1 lakhs in 1928-29. The first wave of enthusiasm for tube-wells has subsided in some quarters, the Mymensingh District Board for instance definitely preferring the older types of water-supply. Exploitation of the possibilities of the tube-well in Bengal is indeed handicapped by two factors. One is the failure of most district boards to realize that the provision of tube-wells on a large scale is useless without the employment of a small staff to do the simple but frequent repairs which the best tube-well pumps need from time to time. The other is the preference for a cheap and shallow type of tube-wells with a view to putting in new wells at the maximum number of villages rather than insistence on sinking the deeper and more permanent types at a limited number of places of public resort. The Faridpur District Board, for instance, sank 237 wells ranging from 50 to 150 feet in depth at an average cost of Rs. 140 each. The District Boards of the 24-Parganas and Hooghly kept a small mechanical staff for the repair of their wells, but the former district which had sunk over 1,000 tube-wells by the end of the year 1928-1929 is a case very much in point. The Commissioner criticised the expenditure in the north of the district on wells of a shallow type which the villagers could often afford to sink by themselves, while the real centre of the water-supply problem, in the south of the district, was neglected.

Construction of the old type of masonry well goes on and calls for little comment, but the place of tanks in a water-supply policy raises administrative questions of its own. On the one hand boards can never hope to construct public tanks in sufficient numbers throughout a district, and money is more usefully applied in assistance to private owners. On the other hand even under carefully guarded conditions, the enforcement of which may however be lost sight of with lapse of time, there is a certain nervousness about authorizing expenditure from public funds on tanks which remain private property, whatever the facilities granted for a public right of access.

Since the end of the year under review Government have formulated on lines of greater precision the policy of providing loans for water-supply at a concessional rate of interest, which will be effected by making a recurring grant corresponding to the reduction of interest to 3 per cent. The opportunity has been taken of modifying the conditions of the scheme so far as possible in order to meet the suggestions of the district boards.

CHAPTER IV-A.—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Agriculture.

[Report on the operations of the Department of Agriculture, Bengal, for the year 1928-29.]

Administration.

195. Mr. R. S. Finlow, C.I.E., was in charge of the department till 7th February 1929 when he went on leave. Dr. G. P. Hector, Economic Botanist, took over and continued in charge during the rest of the year.

The post of Agricultural Engineer, which was sanctioned for a period of five years, was filled by the appointment of Mr. H. C. F. Peterson on the 22nd September 1928.

Agricultural education.

196. The scheme for an Agricultural Institute at Dacca has been re-examined in the light of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Agriculture which support it in the main; but financial stringency stands in the way of its realisation in the near future. Meanwhile a scheme for a Dairy Section at the Dacca Farm has been formulated with a view to provide facilities for training in dairying on modern lines. This scheme has been administratively approved and it is hoped to give effect to it as soon as funds become available.

Satisfactory progress was made during the year in connection with the scheme for the introduction of agriculture in the curricula of High and Middle English Schools which was approved by the Royal Commission on Agriculture. The full complement of thirty teachers from the schools participating in the scheme was under training at the Agricultural School at Dacca. During the year grants were made to five schools which had already been conducting agricultural classes and deputed teachers for training at the Agricultural School.

A noteworthy example of the popularity of the scheme is furnished by the liberality of Babu Jogendra Narayan Sahas Roy of Lalgarh in Midnapore, who made an endowment of property worth Rs. 30,000 by a deed of gift towards the introduction of agricultural teaching in the local Middle English School.

As usual ordinary students and departmental demonstrators also received training at the Secondary Agricultural School, but the classes were still not full.

The primary schools attached to the more important sericultural nurseries continued to do useful work.

197. The usual programme of research and experiment was carried on at the Central Research Station at Dacca and in the district agricultural farms, while there was also collaboration with the University of Dacca which undertook the investigation of certain problems suggested by the department. Research and experiment.

Varietal tests of departmental jutes still confirm the superiority of D. 154 as the heaviest yielder amongst selected *Capsularis* strains.

Rice constitutes the most important item of work in the Botanical Section. The testing of selected varieties of *aus* and *aman* for yield, early maturity and quality was continued. A pure line strain of high land *aus* known as *Surjamukhi* yielded 45 maunds to an acre.

The popularity of Co. 213, a departmental variety of sugarcane, is now established. Over six lakhs of cuttings of the variety were distributed during the year.

198. The management of the Kalimpong Farm was taken over by the department from the St. Andrew's Colonial Homes on a 30 years' lease, with effect from 1st October 1928, on a fixed rent of Rs. 4,000 per annum. The farm will continue to be in the direct charge of the Superintendent of Agriculture, Kalimpong, Darjeeling, under the control of the Director of Agriculture, Bengal, assisted by an Advisory Committee of which the Director of Agriculture, Bengal, is the President. Farms.

199. About 2,070 maunds of jute seed were distributed for the 1928 crop, viz., 1,775 maunds of *Capsularis* and 295 maunds of *Olitorius;* and about 2,550 maunds, viz., 1,950 maunds of *Capsularis* and 600 maunds of *Olitorius*, for the crop of the current year. The distribution of this quantity of seed for the current year involved the making of 2,500 germination tests. The area under departmental seed is estimated to be about 900,000 acres. Seed distribution.

During the year 220 paddy seed farms were in operation being managed by co-operative banks, agricultural associations and local landholders. The area covered by them was 18,182 acres and the produce amounted to 11,000 maunds of *aus* and 22,000 maunds of *aman* seed paddies. Twelve thousand maunds of seed were supplied, 90 per cent. of this quantity being through the private agencies.

Co-operative societies continued to play an important part in popularising departmental paddy seeds. Remarkable advance was made in the Naogaon subdivision of the Rajshahi district where about 2,000 acres were sown with departmental *aus* and 500 acres with departmental *aman* for multiplication of seed. This success was due to the high yielding capacity of departmental paddy, the average outturn per acre being 8 to 10 maunds in excess of local varieties.

Cattle-breeding.

200. The scheme for the improvement of cattle, which was explained in last year's review, was in operation during the year. Two Veterinary Assistant Surgeons were employed under the Live Stock Expert for work in this connection. The premium bull system is reported to have worked satisfactorily. The applications exceeded the sanctioned number of 20 bulls. Of these nine were taken over in Malda district where work was concentrated, one Veterinary Assistant Surgeon being posted there for purposes of supervision.

The nine co-operative societies which were formed were supplied with Scindi bulls purchased from Karachi. The reports on these bulls are not so satisfactory, but it is hoped that better results will follow from correct feeding.

During the year there was a high record of the service of Government bulls, the number being 1,125 against 769 and 234 in the two preceding years. The demand for stud bulls was far in excess of the supply from farms and they had to be purchased from outside.

At the Rangpur Cattle Farm it has been decided to abolish the *deshi* herd and to confine attention to cross-bred Hariana-Bengals and to pure bred Harianas. At Dacca it has been decided to confine attention to raising a Red Scindi herd and to experiment with buffaloes.

Agricultural engineering and irrigation.

201. Appreciable progress has been made in the Agricultural Engineering Section since the appointment of the Agricultural Engineer. He has taken over charge of all machinery and implements on the Dacca Farm and a new workshop has been erected there and the necessary machinery installed. The Agricultural Engineer has evolved a small power cane mill to suit Indian conditions which is now under manufacture in India. He has also designed two bullock-driven pumps expected to draw 3,000 to 5,000 gallons per hour, respectively. A suitable type of Persian wheel has been devised. A new brown sugar furnace

with boiling plant to deal more expeditiously and automatically with cane juice and at the same time ensure a cleaner and lighter coloured *gur* has been designed, and the possibilities of irrigation in the Barind tract which is liable to famine have also been investigated.

During the year an experiment was conducted in collaboration with the Dacca Nawab's Estate and the Irrigation Department in irrigating an area of land in the *Haor* tract of South-East Mymensingh bordering the Meghna by pumping water from the river. An area of 25 acres has been successfully irrigated and a good crop of *boro* paddy has been grown on land ordinarily considered too high for this crop. It is proposed to repeat this experiment on a larger scale during the coming year.

Propaganda and exhibitions.

202. Want of adequate staff continued to be a great handicap in the way of extension of propaganda work of the department. Most of the District Agricultural Officers have been provided with magic lanterns and slides for propaganda work in exhibitions and *melas*. The Eastern Bengal Railway demonstration train was run over the broad-gauge section up to Santahar whence it was diverted to the metre-gauge section over all the northern and eastern Bengal districts. Lectures illustrated by cinema films specially prepared for this department were delivered and were well attended.

Contributions varying from Rs. 30 to Rs. 300 were made to 24 agricultural associations and fairs, and the department participated in most of these by sending exhibits and by giving magic lantern lectures. The cattle shows arranged by the Live Stock Expert were a special feature in some of the exhibitions in North Bengal and aroused much public interest.

The training of co-operative officers in agricultural matters at the Dacca Farm was continued; and classes were held in August and September 1928 and in December 1928 and January 1929. Thirty to 40 officers attended on each occasion.

Sericulture.

203. The prolonged drought which prevailed from October 1927 to March 1928 had an unfavourable effect on the mulberry crop and consequently the production of seeds had to be heavily reduced. The output of nurseries decreased from 22,512 *kahans* to 16,872 *kahans* and the total receipts amounted to Rs. 53,364 against Rs. 56,096 in the preceding year. The manurial experiments on mulberry lands have produced excellent results. There has been a total increase of 1,237 maunds of mulberry leaves over

last year's production. Experimental investigations on different varieties of mulberry are also in progress in the Botanical Section.

Remarkable progress has been made by the selected rearers mostly drawn from the ex-students of the Sericultural School who work under the direct supervision of the department. As many as 67 such rearers reared seed crops from stock seeds supplied from the Government nurseries. They sold 18,679 *kahans* against 15,058 *kahans* last year.

Demonstration and propaganda was extensively carried out in the districts of Malda and Murshidabad. The Bengal Co-operative Silk Union, Malda, has already created a healthy influence in the silk market by making the rearers less dependent on the Mahajans. There are 65 silk rearers' societies affiliated to the local central bank and 25 societies to the Co-operative Silk Union. In Murshidabad 10 such societies were affiliated to the Berhampore central bank and in Bankura nine societies were affiliated to the local industrial union.

Weather and Crops.

[Season and Crop Report of Bengal for the year 1928-29, Crop Forecasts of Bengal for the year 1928-29, Agricultural Statistics of India, Volume 1.]

Character of the season.

204. At the outset dry weather in March somewhat interfered with the field operations for autumn crops. In April the rainfall was sufficient to enable cultivators to proceed with sowings on a large scale. Good showers in May benefited the growth of the germinated *kharif* crops and helped the sowing of transplanted paddy in seed-beds. The monsoon having established itself earlier than usual, transplantation of paddy seedlings began in proper time. Good rainfall in July and August favoured rapid progress in the operation, with the result that a considerably increased area was brought under cultivation. Although rainfall in September was defective, copious showers in October greatly helped the development of the transplanted paddy. *Rabi* sowings began at the usual time; failure of winter rain at the beginning affected the growth of the early crops, but the late crops were benefited by rain in the latter part of January. On the whole the season was good for winter rice, favourable for autumn crops and fair for the spring crops.

The following table furnishes the estimated area and outturn in 1928-29 of *bhadoi*, *aghani* and *rabi* crops as compared with the corresponding estimates of the previous year:—

Name of harvest.	Normal area in acres.	Area cultivated during 1927-28 in acres.	Area cultivated during 1928-29 in acres.	Taking 100 to represent the normal outturn per acre how much represent the outturn for the year.	
				1927-28.	1928-29
Bhadoi	9,380,100	8,919,000	9,274,200	80	95
Winter rice	17,090,800	13,210,100	15,357,400	78	105
Sugarcane	207,700	208,900	195,800	83	81
Other sugar-producing plants	56,000	51,800	51,000	..	..
Rabi	4,438,800	3,671,100	3,824,300	75	79
Total ..	31,173,400	26,060,900	28,702,700	..	..

Bhadoi crops (excepting Jute).

205. Early sowings were slightly retarded by drought in some places, but the rainfall in April and May was generally helpful. Subsequent conditions, as a result of timely monsoon showers, were also beneficial to the growth and development of the crops, though slight damage by excessive rain was reported, especially from some West Bengal districts and from Bakarganj. The season, on the whole, was a favourable one. The outturn of the different *bhadoi* crops for the Presidency was estimated at 95 per cent. of the normal, as against 80 per cent. last year.

Jute.

206. Weather conditions were favourable in March and early April, when most of the jute in Eastern and Northern Bengal was sown. Drought in the latter part of April hindered late sowings and somewhat retarded growth of the germinated crops. May was a wet month, but the conditions in Eastern and Northern Bengal were favourable on the whole. As most of the jute in West Bengal is sown in May, the conditions were not very favourable in the beginning, and on the lower lands heavy rainfall later in the season did some permanent damage; but on the high lands the crop did well.

The area and outturn, excluding the Cooch Behar and Tripura States, were returned at 2,667,300 acres and 8,514,000 bales of 400 lbs. each.

Winter rice crops.

207. Dry weather checked progress in preparatory tillage for deep water paddy, but moderate rain in April facilitated sowings. Good showers in May favoured the growth of the

germinated paddy and sowings of transplanted paddy in seed-beds. As the moonsoon established itself earlier than usual, transplantation of paddy seedlings commenced in good time, and with good rainfall in July and August a large area was brought under cultivation. Although the rainfall in early September was light subsequent weather conditions were good, and on the whole more than a normal crop was reaped, the provincial outturn working out at 105 per cent. of the normal against 78 per cent. last year.

Sugarcane.

208. The weather was unfavourable during the early period of growth. After May conditions were favourable, but untimely heavy rain at the time of maturity in October affected the outturn in many districts. The outturn for the province worked out at 81 per cent. of the normal against 83 per cent. last year.

***Rabi* crops.**

209. With sufficient soil moisture field operations for early spring crops generally commenced at the usual time. After November a period of drought, which lasted till the middle of January, interfered with the growth of the early crops. Excessive rainfall in the latter part of January caused some damage to the early crops then maturing, but generally improved the prospects of the late crops. On the whole, the crop was a little better than last year, the outturn of the different *rabi* crops being 79 per cent. of the normal against 75 per cent. last year.

Cotton.

210. The outturn of the early crop was reduced in the important district of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, owing to excessive rain before plucking time in October. The late crop was fairly good. The total outturn of cotton (both late and early), excluding Tripura State, was estimated at 14,738 bales against 16,855 bales last year.

Area under cultivation.

211. The total cropped area was estimated to be 28,702,700 acres as compared with 26,060,900 acres last year. The figures for the principal crops are shown in the table below:—

Name of crop.	Normal area in acres.	Area cultivated during 1927-28 in acres.	Area cultivated during 1928-29 in acres.
Rice	23,315,900	18,682,200	21,403,900
Other food grains including pulses and *marua*	1,781,500	1,243,200	1,429,000
Jute	2,310,300	2,928,900	2,667,300
Oilseeds	1,402,500	1,050,100	1,037,700
Tobacco	241,500	290,300	291,200
Sugarcane	207,700	208,900	195,800

212. As a result of the good harvest of winter rice, the prices of rice were generally lower during the harvest time. The price of jute was below the normal level owing to the record harvests during the last three successive years. Prices.

Co-operative Societies.

[Report on the working of the Co-operative Societies in Bengal for the year 1928-29.]

213. Mr. J. M. Mitra held the office of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies throughout the year. Administration.

214. The total number of societies at the end of the year was 19,877, an increase of 1,770 societies during the year or 9·7 per cent. against 17·12 per cent. in the previous year. The number of members rose from 635,959 to 706,572 or by 11·1 per cent. as against 16·1 per cent. in the previous year. The total working capital of all the societies rose from Rs. 11,10,01,532 to Rs. 12,88,20,317. Development.

215. The Bengal Provincial Co-operative Bank, Limited, continued to be efficiently managed. Its membership increased from 159 to 163, the working capital from Rs. 1,35·05 lakhs to Rs. 1,71·90 lakhs, the share capital from Rs. 12·27 lakhs to Rs. 13·69 lakhs and the reserve fund from Rs. 1·70 lakhs to Rs. 1·71 lakhs, while the special reserve and other funds increased from Rs. 1·90 lakhs to Rs. 1·91 lakhs. There was a slight rise of non-members' deposits from Rs. 102·93 lakhs to Rs. 123·27 lakhs, but deposits from central banks rose from Rs. 12·76 lakhs to Rs. 22·56 lakhs, while those from other registered societies from Rs. 3·45 lakhs to Rs. 8·74 lakhs. It is satisfactory to note that the Savings Bank Department and home safe boxes were valued by the public and that deposits from these sources amounted to over 2 lakhs of rupees. Bengal Provincial Co-operative Bank, Limited.

216. The number of central banks increased from 110 to 112 and the number of affiliated societies from 15,568 to 17,019 or 9·3 per cent., while working capital increased from 350·63 lakhs of rupees to 392·76 lakhs of rupees or 12 per cent. Deposits received from individuals amounted to Rs. 226·28 lakhs as against Rs. 195·03 lakhs in the previous year and represent 57·2 per cent. of the working capital. There was an increase in the paid up share capital from Rs. 41·09 lakhs to Rs. 45·83 lakhs, while the reserve and other special funds increased from Rs. 18·78 lakhs to Rs. 22·74 lakhs. The total amount contributed from these Central banks.

sources amount to 17·0 per cent. of the working capital as against 17·8 per cent. of the previous year. The amount obtained by borrowing from the Provincial Bank rose from 91·82 lakhs of rupees to 93·50 lakhs of rupees. Loans advanced by central banks to their affiliated societies during the year increased from 177·44 lakhs of rupees to 198·38 lakhs of rupees. There was a slight improvement in repayments from affiliated societies which increased to 166·20 lakhs of rupees. The percentage of repayments to the total loans outstanding at the beginning of the year fell from 50·5 per cent. to 49·8 per cent. The total profits earned by the central banks rose from Rs. 8·24 lakhs to Rs. 8·34 lakhs, while the cost of management increased from Rs. 4·82 lakhs to Rs. 5·74 lakhs and represented 1·5 per cent. of the working capital. On the 30th June 1929 the central banks had Rs. 47·77 lakhs in fluid resources as against a total amount of Rs. 59·11 lakhs on account of deposits maturing within the 12 months following and Rs. 29·73 lakhs held in current and savings deposits, making up a total of Rs. 85·84 lakhs. A satisfactory feature in the working of the central banks was an increase in their fluid resources from Rs. 43·002 to Rs. 51·13 per cent. during the year.

Agricultural credit.

217. The number of agricultural credit societies including grain banks increased from 15,689 to 16,930. The percentage of credit societies to the total number of societies of all kinds accordingly rose from 81·1 to 85·1, and the working capital from Rs. 377 lakhs to Rs. 421 lakhs. There was a corresponding increase in the figures for paid up share capital and deposits from members and non-members. The total of reserve funds built up by these societies increased from Rs. 53·48 lakhs to Rs. 65·51 lakhs, and the percentage of funds derived from central banks to the total working capital employed by these societies has fallen from 72 per cent. in the previous year to 67·2 per cent. The total collections made increased from Rs. 93·49 lakhs in 1927-28 to Rs. 1,14·77 lakhs during the year under report, with a corresponding increase in the percentage of collections to the total amount due at the beginning of the year from 35·3 to 36·7. The total amount of overdues rose from Rs. 92·12 lakhs to Rs. 118·29 lakhs. This is largely due to the fact that the prices of paddy was abnormally low and the cultivators could not recover from the effect of crop failure and distress of the previous year.

Non-Agricultural credit societies.

218. The number of non-agricultural credit societies increased from 358 to 410 and with a few exceptions they were organised on the basis of limited liability. The number of these societies increased from 119,918 to 148,028 and the share capital paid up

from Rs. 46·20 lakhs to Rs. 52·47 lakhs, while the amount of reserve funds rose from Rs. 10·91 lakhs to Rs. 13·19 lakhs. Profits earned increased from Rs. 6·81 lakhs to Rs. 7·78 lakhs. The dividends payable to shareholders were however restricted to the maximum of 12½ per cent. The deposits from members rose from Rs. 48·94 lakhs to Rs. 52·73 lakhs while those from non-members from Rs. 80·85 lakhs to Rs. 97·35 lakhs. The total of the new loans issued during the year amounted to Rs. 183·08 lakhs as against Rs. 161·86 lakhs in the previous year, while repayments on account of loans old and new fell from Rs. 131·27 lakhs to Rs. 130·61 lakhs. The total amount of loans outstanding at the close of the year increased from Rs. 1,76·84 to Rs. 2,05·36 lakhs and the percentage of overdues rose from 9·6 to 11·4.

219. The number of societies of this type increased during the year from 85 to 100, their membership rose from 26,867 to 28,982 and their working capital from Rs. 18,74,501 to Rs. 37,15,741.

Societies other than credit: (i) Agricultural purchase and purchase and sale societies.

Among the societies organised for the marketing of agricultural produce in Bengal the most important is the group of societies for the sale of jute. The work of these societies was carried on by expert managers belonging to a common service and acting under the direction of the Bengal Wholesale Co-operative Society, Limited. The Wholesale Society keeping itself in constant touch with the Calcutta market was in charge of selling arrangements and earned a profit of Rs. 38,026. In the Presidency division the sale societies at Alamdanga in Nadia district worked at a small profit. In Rajshahi division the working of the Sonatala Sale and Supply Society in the district of Bogra was very satisfactory. The amount of jute handled by it was much in excess of the stipulated quantity and it saved the local growers and small traders from exploitation. Sale societies at other places worked at a loss.

The movement of co-operative marketing of paddy received a stimulus by the organisation in the previous year of a Central Paddy Sale Society in Calcutta and by the appointment during the year under report of a special inspector to act as liason officer between the Central and its affiliated societies, who is also in charge of the organisation of new societies. The Society maintains one godown at Ultadingi and another at Chetla, important paddy marts in the suburbs of Calcutta. It disposed of over three lakhs of rupees worth of paddy and worked at a small profit of Rs. 6,000.

(*ii*) Irrigation and drainage societies.

220. The irrigation movement was, as in the previous year, mainly confined to the districts of Western Bengal. The total number of irrigation societies rose from 525 to 773 with a corresponding increase in membership from 15,195 to 20,133.

(*iii*) Co-operative agricultural associations.

221. The number of co-operative agricultural associations was 32 against 31 in the previous year.

Production and sale societies: (*a*) Milk societies.

222. The total number of milk societies in Bengal rose from 123 to 169. The Calcutta Milk Union maintained a record of steady progress. In Rajshahi division the Darjeeling Milk Union, working with three affiliated societies, supplied butter and ghee to the residents of the town milk societies and unions were organised also at other places in the Rajshahi division. The milk societies in Dinajpur district have made an excellent beginning. A central depôt was established at Dinajpur and a milk union has been organised and registered since the close of the year. In Burdwan division the Hooghly group of societies continued to do excellent work, as also the milk societies in the Dacca division under the Dacca Milk Union.

(*b*) Naogaon Ganja cultivators' Co-operative Society, Limited.

223. The Ganja Cultivators' Co-operative Societies, Limited, at Naogaon in the district of Rajshahi prospered and continued to be of immense service to the cultivators. Its membership increased from 3,770 to 3,914 with a corresponding increase in the share capital from Rs. 44,300 to Rs. 45,640, while the working capital decreased from Rs. 6,86,514 to Rs. 5,91,304. It sold 4,058 maunds of ganja and 398 maunds of bhang as against 4,450 maunds and 414 maunds respectively in the previous year, and contributed a sum of Rs. 33,547 towards the cost of the Excise establishment in the ganja mahal. While cultivators were paid fair prices for the commodity produced by them the profits of the Society were sufficient to maintain three charitable dispensaries and a properly equipped veterinary dispensary for the benefit of the public. It expended Rs. 12,518 on education and helped three High English Schools and 87 Primary Schools both for boys and girls within the ganja mahal area. In addition to this the Society spent Rs. 2,371 on the maintenance of roads and bridges in the area.

Stores and supply societies.

224. The number of societies increased from 58 to 69 and their membership from 9,869 to 10,532. The total amount of sales increased from Rs. 4·68 to Rs. 5·36 lakhs and there was a slight increase in the profits earned as a whole.

Weavers' societies.

225. The number of weavers' societies rose from 274 to 292, while the number of members and the total working capital rose from 4,844 to 5,156 and Rs. 3·64 lakhs to 4·26 lakhs, respectively.

226. The number of societies formed among cocoon rearers increased from 65 to 81, out of which 66 in the Malda district alone. Of these 29 were affiliated to the Bengal Co-operative Silk Union, and the rest working on credit basis were mostly financed by the Malda Central Co-operative Bank, Limited. Their working capital increased from Rs. 84,778 to Rs. 99,047, but the amount of profits earned by them remained stationary. Silk societies.

The Bengal Co-operative Silk Union, Limited, in the district of Malda completed the third year of its working. Its working capital increased from Rs. 63,500 to Rs. 86,923. The special feature of the working of the Society during the year under report was an attempt to organise societies among silk weavers in other districts and to link them up with the societies of rearers and reelers already affiliated to it.

227. The Madhyamgram Chicon Society in the district of the 24-Parganas continued to do useful work, but the Conchshell Workers' Society at Dacca lacked in real co-operative spirit. Four societies among lac growers in Malda district earned a profit of Rs. 497, and the Braziers' Society at Brahmanberia in Tippera district continued to work well and earned a profit of Rs. 230. The societies of shoemakers did not make any progress during the year, and the Toymakers' Society at Illambazar in the district of Birbhum suffered from lack of funds and failed to obtain a proper market for their produce. Artisans' societies.

228. The Darjeeling Co-operative Building Society, Limited, which commenced its operation during the year had 22 members to whom plots were allotted for the building sites obtained from the Society in the Darjeeling Municipality. Work was started by the Char Fasson Housing Society in Bakarganj district. This Society has as its object the settlement on recently formed land of young men of the bhadrolog class who are prepared to make a profession of agriculture. Their progress is encouraging. House-building societies.

229. The number of societies among fishermen continued to be the same as in the previous year. Eighty-nine societies were organised among them on the basis of unlimited liability and 19 on the basis of limited liability. Some of these societies are working well. Fishermen's societies.

230. The total number of anti-malarial and public health societies rose during the year under review from 551 to 662 and their membership from 13,666 to 15,620. Anti-malarial and public health societies.

Village reconstruction.

231. Some of the societies for village reconstruction in Birbhum district under the Rural Reconstruction Department of Dr. Rabindra Nath Tagore at Bolpur continued to do useful work.

Women's organisations.

232. The total number of co-operative organisations among women has remained the same as in the previous year.

Relief societies.

233. Among the societies of this class the Bengal Police Co-operative Benefit Fund and the Bengal Secretariat Co-operative Death Benefit Society, Limited, have taken a prominent part in encouraging thrift.

The Bengal Co-operative Organisation Society, Limited.

234. On the propaganda and organisation side of the movement the Bengal Co-operative Organisation Society, Limited, continued to render extremely valuable assistance to the department. During the year under report it extended the sphere of its activities in many new directions. Its membership increased from 11,000 to 12,025. The two journals published by it, the *Bengal Co-operative Journal* in English and *Bhandar* in Bengali, maintained their standard. In particular *Bhandar* carried on its useful mission of propagating co-operative principles among the comparatively uneducated people in the remote villages of Bengal. Its circulation exceeded 13,000 and it is now recognised as a paying medium for advertisement. The Society also published some leaflets in English and Bengali. The Co-operative Library and Free Reading Room maintained by the Society was greatly appreciated by the reading public. It also arranged for two series of lectures meant for the student community and for social service workers: one at the College Branch of the Young Men's Christian Association and the other at the University Institute. The publicity work of the Society was carried on by a staff of paid and honorary lecturers who were provided with magic lanterns and suitable slides. The Publicity Officer of the Society travelled in the demonstration train organised by the Eastern Bengal Railway in February and March 1929 in the equipment of the co-operative section of which the Society rendered valuable assistance. The Society organised the Thirteenth Bengal Co-operative Conference in December 1928 along with its annual general meeting. In addition to the annual conference the Society organised three divisional conferences. It also took a prominent part in a large number of agricultural and industrial exhibitions held at mufassal towns and arranged, by means of charts, models and pictures, to spread among the public the ideas of co-operation and the activities of the department. The Society made arrangements for the celebration of the International Co-operators' Day in Calcutta and took the lead in the arrangements for such celebration at various places in the interior.

Industrial unions.

235. The Bengal Provincial Co-operative Industrial Society, Limited, was registered during the year under review and took over the management of the central sale depôt from the Bengal Co-operative Organisation Society, Limited. The Society is indeed a federation of all industrial unions and also industrial societies not affiliated to industrial unions. The total sale of finished products amounted during this year to about Rs. 30,848, out of which Rs. 20,504 represented the value of the products of co-operative societies while the rest the value of the products of individual artisans outside such societies. The Society also undertook the supply of raw materials, principally yarn, the total value of which amounted during this year to Rs. 98,659 and earned a profit of Rs. 6,710. The Dacca Industrial Union maintained its record of progress. The number of affiliated societies rose from 46 to 60 and the profits earned by it increased from Rs. 5,437 to Rs. 7,250. The Bankura Co-operative Industrial Union worked with 73 affiliated societies and a working capital of Rs. 56,886 as against 69 societies and Rs. 48,253 in the preceding year. The amount realised by the sale of finished products increased from Rs. 28,317 to Rs. 31,231 and the amount of wages paid to the members of affiliated societies increased from Rs. 5,516 to Rs. 6,075. The Chittagong Co-operative Industrial Union, Limited, pursued a policy of consolidation and this was reflected in the collections which increased to Rs. 82,000 from Rs. 47,432 in the previous year. It earned a profit of Rs. 2,330. The Chowmohani Industrial Union, Limited, in the district of Noakhali had 26 societies affiliated to it and was able to earn a profit of Rs. 1,475 as against Rs. 1,121 in the previous year. The Raipura Co-operative Industrial Union, engaged in tanning in the same district, failed to earn a profit on account of high working expenses.

Horticulture.

[Annual Report of the Royal Botanic Garden and other Gardens in Calcutta and of the Lloyd Botanic Garden, Darjeeling, for the year 1928-29.]

Royal Botanic Garden.

236. There was a period of prolonged drought towards the end of the year, but no lasting harm appeared to be done. No fewer than 150 species of plants, hitherto unrepresented in the permanent collections, were added to the garden during the year. Forty-six new rose beds were made and planted with stock received from Upper India. A few additions were made to the living collections of medicinal plants. The students' section is now well

established and continues to be a centre of attraction to visitors. Attempts are also being made for the establishment of tropical fruit trees and varieties of camelias. A small tank, the temperature of which can be regulated, has been constructed for the propagation and hybridization of water lilies.

As usual, specimens were received, identified and incorporated in the herbarium. A definite beginning has been made to depute officers for periods of regular field survey work. In addition to the collections made departmentally accessions to the herbarium include some 1,000 sheets returned after revision for the flora of Madras and a somewhat smaller number of Forestian duplicates from the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh.

Calcutta gardens.

237. The show of flowering annuals was up to its usual standard of excellence. Stocks of foliage plants such as ferns and potted palms were multiplied for decorative purposes and for loan for public or semi-public functions.

Lloyd Botanic Garden, Darjeeling.

238. The season in Darjeeling varied little from the normal. A heavy fall of hail in March 1929 caused some destruction to the annuals in the flower beds and damage to other plants. One hundred and seventy young trees and shrubs were planted in the garden; 871 packets of seeds and 750 plants were distributed to botanical and other institutions during the year.

Cinchona Plantations and Factory.

[Report of the Government Cinchona Plantations and Factory for the year 1928-29.]

Plantations.

239. The two cinchona plantations maintained by Government in this presidency are at Mungpoo and Munsong, both in the district of Darjeeling. There is a factory at Mungpoo, where quinine and its by-products are manufactured from the bark grown on these plantations and from Java and Burma bark sent by the Government of India. A hailstorm did very considerable damage to some cinchona blocks in the Rungbee division on the Mungpoo plantation. In this plantation 68 acres were planted, but a devastating disease which appeared in the nurseries of the Munsong plantation last year prevented any planting out in that plantation.

The survey of the plantations commenced through the agency of the Survey of India, referred to in the report for 1927-28, was completed during the year.

240. The quantity of dried bark used in the factory during the year was 1,058,349 lbs. against 1,143,732 lbs. in the preceding year. Of this 918,072 lbs. was Bengal bark and the rest Java and Burma bark belonging to the Government of India. Of the 1,143,732 lbs. used in the factory in 1927-28, 857,900 lbs. were Bengal bark and 285,832 lbs. Java and Burma bark belonging to the Government of India. The total quantity of quinine sulphate and cinchona febrifuge manufactured during the year was 41,368 lbs. and 20,501 lbs., respectively, against 46,485 lbs. and 20,899 lbs. in the preceding year. Outturn.

The second purification plant was installed during the year. The result has been that the quinine packed since the installation is as white as any brand on the market.

241. The quantity of factory products sold during the year was 31,010 lbs. against 27,033 lbs. in the previous year. The receipts from sales were Rs. 6,46,746 and there were receipts from land rent and other minor sources amounting to Rs. 7,806. The total expenditure was Rs. 4,16,925. The expenditure was lower by Rs. 31,319 and the receipts from sales were higher by Rs. 1,08,544 than in the preceding year. In spite of an adverse balance in the valuation of plantations due to disease at Munsong, the profit and loss account showed a profit of Rs. 3,11,192 on the year's working. Financial results.

Forests.

[The Annual Progress Report on the Forest Administration of the Presidency of Bengal for the year ending the 31st March 1929.]

242. The forests of Bengal lie chiefly along the Himalayan Range in the north, the Sundarbans in the south and in the Chittagong district and Chittagong Hill Tracts in the south-east. During the year the area of reserved forest increased by 1,181 square miles to 6,462 square miles. The area of protected forest diminished from 1,854 to 628 square miles or by 1,226 square miles, of which 1,097 square miles in the Sundarban division and 90 square miles in the Dacca-Mymensingh division are accounted for by their inclusion in the area of reserved forest. There was no change in the area of unclassed forests. The total area under the control of the Forest Department diminished by about 45 square miles by the disforestation of areas more suitable for cultivation than for forest purposes. Administration.

The total outlay on the constitution of State forests during the year under report was Rs. 20,672 against Rs. 61,382 in the previous year.

Communications and buildings.

243. The amount spent on construction and repairs of roads and bridges was about Rs. 58,000 against Rs. 61,000 in the previous year; no new works of any magnitude were taken up during the year.

The amount spent on construction of new buildings was Rs. 61,765 against Rs. 1,03,865 in the preceding year. The cost of upkeep of the existing buildings was, however, a little more than that in the previous year.

Silviculture.

244. The full programme of regeneration could not be carried out but 2,227 acres were regenerated during the year against 2,435 acres in the previous year. There was practically no natural regeneration in Northern Bengal and 36 per cent. of prescriptions on all types of plantations including sál (*shorea robusta*) and champ (*michelia champaca*) was carried out in that area.

Exploitation.

245. Departmental Khedda operations conducted in the Chittagong Hill Tracts division resulted in the capture of 32 elephants, of which two died, two escaped, one was shot and nine released. The net return yielded by the operations amounted to Rs. 1,123, but this figure excludes the value of five elephants still unsold and three elephants taken over by the department. The saw mill at Siliguri which was started in April 1926 continued to do good work. The total sales of sawn timber from this mill fell from Rs. 1,33,000 to Rs. 1,25,943 during the year. The mill had to face an extremely dull market throughout the year.

Financial results.

246. There was an all-round diminution in the outturn of forest produce except bamboos. While revenue and profit diminished by more than 2 lakhs during the year, expenditure diminished by about Rs. 20,000 only. The main reason for the decrease is that in the Sunderbans, where uncontrolled felling was hitherto the usual mode of extraction, it has now become difficult for purchasers to obtain what they require from places easy of access. To remedy this it has been decided to introduce the Range system in the Sunderbans from next year. The total value of sales of forest produce was about 3¼ lakhs less than in 1927-28. The value of forest produce given free of royalty was Rs. 51,379 against Rs. 49,193 in 1927-28. The actual profit during the year amounted to Rs. 14,36,349.

General.

247. Lizard skins having become fashionable, a considerable trade in them has developed. The demand for skins during recent

years resulted in such indiscriminate killing of these animals that Government were compelled to take steps for their protection in view of the useful purpose they serve in keeping down the number of snakes. A close season and a minimum size below which immature lizards are entirely protected were prescribed by Government during the year.

In the forest area two persons were killed by crocodiles but none by tigers. A sum of Rs. 1,860 was paid in rewards for killing 11 tigers and capturing two cubs.

Industries.

[Report of the Department of Industries, Bengal, for the year 1928.]

248. Mr. A. T. Weston held charge of the department throughout the year under report. Administration.

The most important administrative change of consequence that took place during the year under review was the transfer of control of all district and peripatetic weaving schools and of the weaving demonstration parties from the Principal, Serampore Weaving Institute, to the directorate at Calcutta. The only other important change was the retirement of Mr. E. Hoogewerf, Principal, Serampore Weaving Institute, who was superannuated on 3rd April 1929.

249. The researches and experiments which were carried out by the Industrial Chemist were made the subject of demonstrations, and references were frequently made to the section for technical assistance and advice. The training provided at the research laboratory for apprentices in soap-making attracted a fair number of students. Research : (*a*) Chemical section.

250. The Industrial Engineer investigated the condition of a number of industries and the results are embodied in the reports published by the department, such as reports on the match industry and the investigation into the condition of the hosiery industry. The research done in connection with the drying of boiled paddy is an example of the useful work of the section and the direct results of demonstrations are illustrated by the fact that in the course of seven months over 400 paddy-husking machines devised by the Industrial Engineer were sold. At Chittagong an organised factory for the production, bending and marking of umbrella handles has been established, and an umbrella-making class was opened at the research laboratory (*b*) Engineering section.

In this section also assistance was readily given to industrialists not only by technical advice but by having their names enlisted as approved contractors.

(c) Bengal Tanning Institute.

251. The Bengal Tanning Institute continued its good work in research, instruction and demonstration, and investigations on several problems connected with the leather industry of the province. As a result of the activities of the institute the consumption of Bengal hides in the chrome tanning industry is gradually increasing, not only in this province but also in other parts of India. Successful demonstration and propaganda work was also actively carried on.

Technical education.

252. Technical education in all its branches including weaving education has been receiving the special attention of the department. The total number of technical institutions, public and private, rose from 127 to 147 and the number of pupils attending them from 5,525 to 6,422. The total expenditure, direct and indirect, incurred on these institutions increased from Rs. 11,15,750 to Rs. 13,83,173. At the Calcutta Technical School the number of apprentices on the roll on 31st March 1929 was 141. It is noteworthy that the school within the short period of four years has been successful in inspiring such confidence among employing firms, that some of them are now insisting on candidates for apprenticeship passing the entrance examination of the school. Sections devoted to technical training in electric wiring installation and plumbing work have been opened and show considerable promise.

With the active co-operation of the Indian Iron and Steel Works, Limited, a technical school has been started at Asansol, to which apprentices from the various engineering concerns in the neighbourhood will be admitted.

The Government Weaving Institute at Serampore kept up its record of good work, though the upper classes started for women students failed to attract students.

At the Bengal Tanning Institute an average of 12 apprentices were under training during the year under review. Five out of the six apprentices who had completed their two-year course obtained the diploma.

State technical scholarships.

253. Two technical scholarships for training in England—one for sizing and calendering in respect of textile manufactures and one for automobile engineering—were awarded during the

year. A fresh programme of subjects in which such scholarships will be given for the next five years from 1929-30 has been drawn up in consultation with the Advisory Board of Industries.

254. In accordance with the decision of Government that the report on the survey of cottage industries in Bengal should be brought up to date quinquennially with the assistance of the district staff, a second edition of the report has been published. Home industries.

Manufacture and Mines.

255. There was further decline in the area under jute cultivation, including Cooch Behar and Tripura States, from 2,962,100 acres in the previous year to 2,702,300 acres. The total outturn was 8,589,000 bales against 9,054,700 bales in the preceding year. There were 87 jute mills at work, employing on an average 3,34,841 operatives—an increase of 7,767 over those of the previous year. The number of looms and spindles at work in these mills was 51,928 and 1,095,235, respectively, as against 50,879 and 1,076,894 in 1927-28. The authorised capital in rupees, sterling and dollars was Rs. 20,58,32,000, £3,175,000 and $12,000,000. Jute.

256. Thirteen cotton mills were at work employing on an average 14,522 persons daily as against 12,503 in 1927-28. The number of looms and spindles at work was 4,081 and 359,786, respectively, as compared with 3,210 and 305,231 in the year 1927-28. Cotton.

257. There were two silk mills under the operation of the Indian Factories Act, employing on an average 410 operatives. The total production of disease-free seed cocoons during the year was 35,641 *kahans*, of which 16,872 *kahans* were raised by Government nurseries and 18,769 *kahans* by private agencies under Government supervision. Silk.

258. The area under tea in 1928 was 201,096 acres (including figures for the Tripura State) against 196,704 acres in the previous year. The quantity of tea manufactured was 96,105,654 lbs. as against 97,942,054 lbs. in 1927. The number of tea plantations totalled 384, employing on an average 181,324 permanent and 10,679 temporary hands daily. Two hundred and sixty-six tea factories were under the operation of the Indian Factories Act; Tea.

the total average number of operatives employed was 16,184 exclusive of persons employed on the gardens outside the factory premises.

Coal.

259. There was a further fall in the number of collieries regulated by the Indian Mines Act during the year, from 191 to 174, and the number of persons employed in them fell from 44,285 to 43,855. The total yearly output of coal however rose from 5,554,990 tons to 5,639,993 tons. Coal mining labour was scarce towards the end of the year; the scarcity was caused by the excellence of the rice crop in areas adjacent to the coal fields. Wages remained at about the same level as in the previous year.

The number of coal mines using electric power stood at 48 as in the previous year. The number of mechanical ventilators and safety lamps in use was 21 and 8,170 against 17 and 9,130, respectively, in the previous year.

The market for Indian coal continued to be weak until the closing months of the year. With a view to economy in the cost of production the large concerns aimed at maximum output, but the excess production could not be absorbed and the pressure to sell resulted in even lower prices being obtained than in the previous year. In the closing months of the year a degree of firmness manifested itself.

The improvement in the exports of coal continued. The Indian Coal Grading Board carried on the work of grading coal and granting certificates of quality for coal intended for export, and their work met with general approval.

Paper.

260. There were three paper mills at work during the year employing on an average 4,101 persons daily. They produced 28,406 tons of paper valued at Rs. 1,36,90,000.

Wool.

261. As in previous years only the Dacca Jail Woollen Mill (10 looms and 288 spindles) was at work during the year. It employed on an average 154 persons daily, and produced 118,287 lbs. of blankets valued approximately at Rs. 1,18,287.

Saltpetre.

262. As in the previous year there were two licensed saltpetre refineries at work. These produced 810 maunds of refined saltpetre against 2,453 maunds in 1927-28. The decrease was mainly due to the import of foreign crude saltpetre of such good quality that it needed no further refinement in the local refineries. Only 27 maunds of *Sitta* (impure salt) were produced and no purified salt.

Miscellaneous Manufactures and minor Industries.

Burdwan division.

263. During the year the manufactures of this division were mostly in the same position as in the preceding year. The rice mills in the Burdwan district worked fairly well during the latter part of the year, while the East Indian Tanning Extract Co., Limited, at Raniganj and the steel trunk manufactory at Gopalpur progressed favourably. In the Birbhum district ten rice mills and one oil mill were started during the year, while the silk factory at Bhadrapur ceased to exist. In the Bankura district two new rice mills were started, one at Onda and one at Sarenga, during the year, but the small match factory at Bankata had to be closed down. In the Midnapore district the rice mills flourished but the manufactures of bell-metal wares in the Ghatal subdivision suffered for want of customers. In the Hooghly district the rice mills and the cloth-weaving industries prospered, while the bell-metal industry in the Arambagh subdivision languished. In the Howrah district the manufactures of brass padlocks and iron pans thrived, and the *endi* weaving industry received an impetus from the demonstrations conducted by the Industries Department.

Presidency division.

264. There is little to record. The Sundarbans match factory in Khulna district, the ice factory at Hasnabad in the 24-Parganas, started in the preceding year, were closed for most of the year. In the Jessore district two rice mills were started during the year, one in the Sadar subdivision and one in Bongaon subdivision, and two mills were started at Bongaon and Benapole for paddy husking and production of oil, respectively.

Dacca division.

265. A match factory and a small soap factory were started in Tangail and Sadar subdivisions of the Mymensingh district. Two match factories in Mymensingh town and one at Muktagacha practically ceased to exist.

Chittagong division.

266. In the Chittagong district two companies were floated during the year to undertake business in the manufacture of jute products and cotton bailing respectively. A small umbrella-making factory was also started as a result of a demonstration carried out by the Industries Department.

Rajshahi division.

267. In the Jalpaiguri district minor industries that thrived were gunny weaving by hand, making jute string, cane basket-making and the manufacture of jar. Sugar was made in small quantities. In the Alipur Duar subdivision the tea industry was very flourishing. In the Bogra and Malda districts the improvement of the silk industry was maintained. More rice mills were started in Bogra district.

Working of the Indian Factories Act, 1911 (XII of 1911).

[Annual Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act in Bengal for the year 1928.]

268. Ninety-three new factories were added to and 31 removed from the register of factories in Bengal during the year. The net total number of factories on the register in 1928 was 1,446, of which 1,348 factories were worked during the year as compared with 1,384 and 1,297, respectively, in 1927. The average daily number of persons employed in these factories was 571,079 against 559,759 in the previous year. The increase was mainly in jute mills, general engineering works, iron and steel-smelting works, jute presses, tea factories and cotton mills. The number of women employed rose from 72,907 in 1927 to 75,498 in 1928. The number of children employed fell from 26,437 in 1927 to 24,422 in 1928. This is due to the steadily increasing employment in jute mills of labour over 15 years of age in place of half-timers, the introduction in many jute mills of the single-shift system, and also the introduction of box filling machines in match factories. Several cases of irregular employment of women and children were detected. Prosecution proceedings were instituted against the offenders and convictions obtained in 29 cases.

One hundred and twenty-one factories were inspected more than three times, 86 factories three times, 233 factories twice and 887 once. Only 21 factories, of which nine were tea factories, were not inspected during the year.

The quality of the living conditions of industrial labour in small factories where housing accommodation is not provided is difficult to estimate, but in jute mills and other large concerns housing accommodation and general amenities are comparatively good. Improvement has been continuous and is continuing. Important improvements have also been carried out in the provision of washing and bathing facilities and in the supply and distribution of drinking water. Notable among the new developments in welfare work is the opening in the Kelvin Jute Mills of an eye dispensary which will serve the whole of the Tittaghur area. At the Angus Company's Jute Mill and Engineering Works at Bhadreswar the medical staff consists of a European physician and surgeon in charge, a European nurse, an Indian midwife, five qualified Indian doctors, two trained compounders, two electrical assistants for the operating theatre and laboratory work, two dressers, two hospital assistants and four general assistants.

Excellent progress in welfare work is being made in the Government ordnance factories at Ishapur. Improvements made during the year include a central casualty ward with six beds for Indian employees, and a first aid dispensary at the gate of the rifle factory.

The number of accidents reported during the year was 3,657 of which 79 were fatal, 1,204 serious and 2,374 minor or slight, being an increase of 13 fatal, 39 serious and 54 minor accidents, as compared with the figures of the previous year. The percentage of accidents on the total number of persons employed is ·63 which is exactly the same as that for the previous year.

Prosecution proceedings were instituted in 135 cases; of these 110 were against managers of factories, 10 against the occupiers and 15 against assistants. Convictions were obtained in 121 cases, two cases ended in acquittal, two were withdrawn and nine cases remained undisposed of.

Labour Disputes.

269. The number of trade disputes in the year, involving stoppages of work, was 49 as compared with 42 in the previous year. The number of work-people involved in all disputes in the year was about 123,674 as against 56,300 in the year 1927-28; and the aggregate economic loss in working days was about 3,910,631 as compared with 380,141 in the previous year. Of the 49 disputes in the year, five had begun within the previous year and the rest began and ended during the year. Jute mills and presses claim the largest proportion of the disputes in the year, and a dispute in this group of concerns alone accounts for about 29 per cent. of the total economic loss in working days due to all disputes. Thirty-three of the disputes of the year were occasioned by demands for higher wages or by other questions relating to wages and their payment, eight arose on questions concerning discharge or dismissal and other similar disciplinary action with regard to staff, one on details of leave and hours of work and the remaining seven on other miscellaneous issues. All the disputes were settled during the year; sixteen were settled in favour of the employees either wholly or in part and 23 against them, while in the remaining 10 cases, work was resumed either as the result of a compromise or pending negotiations.

A new conciliation panel to deal with disputes affecting public utility services in Calcutta and its neighbourhood was constituted by Government with effect from the 1st April 1928.

Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926.

270. Seven trade unions were registered during the year under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, making a total of nine registered trade unions. One of the newly registered unions submitted notice of dissolution during the year. The membership of the remaining eight registered unions at the close of the year was 37,645, comprising 37,455 men and 190 women, and the balance at the credit of their general funds was Rs. 19,519-1-2.

A number of new labour associations were started during the year. Of these mention may be made of—

(*i*) the Calcutta Corporation Jamadars' Union, an organisation of chaprasis and menials employed in the offices of the Calcutta Corporation.

(*ii*) All-Bengal Compounders' Association, Calcutta; and

(*iii*) Anjuman-Khush Nawis, Calcutta, an asociation of lithoprinting writers, working in the city of Calcutta.

Bengal Steam Boiler Commission.

[Annual Report of the Boiler Commission, Bengal, for the year 1928.]

271. This chapter deals with the operations of the Commission in Bengal only during the year 1928. The Commissioners held one special and twelve ordinary meetings for the transaction of business. The total number of boilers on the register in Bengal was 4,926 and of these 213 were struck off the register. The staff inspected 3,796 boilers and found 113 of them defective; one of these was condemned and the others recommended for repairs. The total receipts amounted to Rs. 3,20,587, including Rs. 1,65,153 realized as fees for the inspection of boilers in Bengal. The total expenditure was Rs. 3,10,173, of which Rs. 1,71,773 was incurred on account of this province. The figures representing the total receipts and expenditure for the previous year were Rs. 3,17,843 and Rs. 3,15,828. Two prosecutions were instituted; in both cases fines of Rs. 100 were imposed. Three serious accidents occurred, resulting in the death of eight persons and injury to one.

Bengal Smoke Nuisances Commission.

272. The Commission held twelve meetings during the year. They continued their efforts to improve the service to the public and mill-owners and kept in touch with the Smoke Departments and Fuel and Research Institutions in Europe. Sub-committees were appointed to deal with the larger questions, confer with the interests concerned and generally plan future programmes.

During the year 5,828 offences were reported against 7,433 in the previous year. The staff made 7,002 inspections and tests for educational purposes, examined 67 plans of which all were approved except one, and served 12 statutory warnings. No prosecution was instituted. General smoke conditions improved by a reduction of the emission of smoke in average figures from ·68 to ·48 minutes of dense black smoke per hour. This is the lowest figure recorded, and means that the total black smoke daily emitted has been reduced by nearly 3,000 minutes.

The installation of 839 motors, equivalent to 8,977 horse-power, within the system of the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, and the fittings, by the Oriental Gas Company, of 1,416 gas appliances for domestic and industrial use contributed to the reduction of atmospheric pollution.

Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 (VIII of 1923).

[Report on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Bengal during the year 1928.]

273. The number of cases under the Workmen's Compensation Act showed an increase but the increase was light and suggests that, unless the scope of the Act is extended, the number of cases arising under it has nearly found its level. The Act became better known in the coal fields, from which 14 applications for compensation were received as against four in the previous year. Full use was made during the year of the stipulation under which lascars are compensated under the Act. The Shipping Federation of London agreed to deposit compensation for fatal accidents to lascars with the Commissioner. Previously they made enquiries through the Shipping Master, Calcutta, and the local Magistrates, a procedure which led to delay and often to duplication, as the dependants in the meantime often applied to the Commissioner. Since the end of the year the provisions of the Act have been extended to persons employed on (*a*) the work of boatmen on canals and (*b*) the work of the regulation establishment on canals.

Twelve applications for compensation under section 10 of the Act were pending from the previous year, and 121 were filed during the year under review as against 111 in the preceding year. Of these 133 applications, 24 were wholly or partly successful, 34 failed and five remained pending at the close of the year.

There were 185 proceedings before the Commissioner in connection with the distribution of compensation, involving a total of Rs. 1,75,250. Twenty-two cases were transferred to other Commissioners; all the rest except eleven were disposed of.

Two hundred and fifty-four memoranda of agreements were presented for registration under section 28 of the Act as against 234 in the previous year and eight memoranda were pending from the previous year. Of these 262 agreements 251 were for permanent disablement and 11 for temporary disablement. Two hundred and forty-five agreements were registered as they stood, 11 were registered after modification and one was not registered, leaving five cases pending at the end of the year.

Statistical returns under section 16 of the Act were received from 1,446 concerns showing the total daily average number of workmen employed as 630,601. The total number of accidents reported in the returns was 2,222, of which 85 resulted in death, 286 in permanent disablement and 1,851 in temporary disablement, the amount of compensation paid being Rs. 51,404, Rs. 74,140 and Rs. 21,319, respectively. In addition to these amounts a sum of Rs. 6,982 was paid as compensation for three cases of lead poisoning which resulted in permanent disablement.

The year opened with a cash balance of Rs. 16,616 in the Post Office Savings Bank opened by the Commissioner on behalf of minor dependants. A further sum of Rs. 8,156-5-0 was invested, and at the close of the year there was a balance of Rs. 15,313-4-1 after payments had been made to the dependants.

Indian Companies Act, 1913, and allied Acts.

[Annual Report of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, Bengal, on the working of the Indian Companies Act and allied Acts during 1928-29.]

274. The number of companies in operation in Bengal, which were limited by shares, at the close of the year was 3,584 with a total nominal capital of Rs. 3,56,75,93,170 and a paid up capital of Rs. 1,22,60,58,803 as compared with 3,285 companies with Rs. 3,52,40,42,670 nominal and Rs. 1,20,40,55,399 paid up capital at the end of the preceding year.

Three hundred and eighty-seven new companies and societies, or 53 more than the number of companies incorporated in the previous year, were registered. Of the new companies 340 were limited by shares, 10 were limited by guarantee, and 37 representing various social, philanthropic and charitable objects were registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. Five hundred and sixty companies increased, while 66 companies reduced, their capital against 478 and 34, respectively, in the previous year. Forty-one companies ceased to work, went into liquidation, were finally dissolved or otherwise became defunct, as compared with 48 in the previous year. Fifty-three companies went into liquidation during the year but were not finally dissolved. No investigation under section 138 of the Indian Companies Act was directed during the year, but the practice of appealing to the Registrar to interfere in the internal affairs of companies and for advice or for opinion on various matters continued.

One hundred and eighty-eight prosecutions were instituted during the year and 24 were pending from the previous year. Of these 162 ended in conviction, 24 cases in which the offenders could not be traced were filed by the Court and 26 remained pending at the close of the year.

The net receipts of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies from all sources amounted to Rs. 91,642 as compared with Rs. 81,788 in the previous year.

Four permanent unrestricted auditors' certificates were granted to the holders of the Government Diploma in Accountancy under the provisions of section 144 of the Indian Companies Act and the rules relating thereto.

Two applications for auditors' certificates from Government were refused as the applicants did not possess the qualifications required by the Bengal Certified Auditors' Rules. One of the applicants became qualified later and obtained the certificate. Forty-six certified auditors remained on the register at the close of the year. Of these 30 held permanent unrestricted, two permanent restricted, and 14 temporary restricted auditors' certificates.

Provident Insurance Societies Act, 1912.

275. Four new Provident Insurance Societies were registered under the Act during the year, thus increasing the total number of existing societies to 16.

TRADE.

Foreign Sea-borne Trade.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1928-29.]

Trade position.

276. The trade of Bengal, during the year 1928-29, maintained the progress recorded last year. This was due to the continued stability in exchange, good crops and steady industrial conditions at home and abroad.

The total aggregate value of the sea-borne trade of Bengal (excluding treasure) with foreign countries and Indian ports amounted to Rs. 2,80·62 crores, an increase of about a crore of rupees over the corresponding figures of the previous year. There was also a corresponding increase in tonnage under all heads, the most noticeable being under the head Dock Imports, which rose from 472,542 to 1,183,183. There was a slight decrease in coal under Dock Exports.

In the foreign trade, the total declined from Rs. 2,38 crores to Rs. 2,37 crores. Of this, the imports increased from Rs. 89·76 crores to Rs. 91·39 crores, and the exports fell from Rs. 148·39 crores to Rs. 145·95 crores. On the import side, the piece-goods trade showed disappointing results, and it is apprehended that the methods adopted to tide over a period of difficulty will result in a permanent loss of some of Calcutta's trade in favour of Karachi. Sugar showed record imports due chiefly to a further fall in prices, but the outstanding feature was the import of wheat from Canada and Australia. On the export side, jute had again a prosperous year and shellac a record one. It was, however, a subdued year for tea.

During the year under report the share of the United Kingdom's trade with Calcutta resulted in an all round decrease by 6 per cent., the imports diminishing from 58 to 52 per cent. and the exports from 29 to 23 per cent. This decrease was the result of a drop in the imports of piece-goods and in the exports of tea.

Coasting trade.

277. In the coasting trade the total, excluding treasure, increased from Rs. 41 crores to Rs. 43 crores, due chiefly to the increase in imports from Rs. 24 crores to Rs. 26 crores. The total exports also showed a slight increase.

Imports of Merchandise.

278. The following table shows comparative importance of the principal articles in the import trade of Calcutta. Articles which form less than ·50 per cent. of the total imports have been omitted from the list:—

	1927-28.	1928-29.	Percentage of proportion to total imports of merchandise.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Cotton goods	28,10,80,834	24,10,20,072	27·81
Metals and ores	10,51,55,778	10,60,41,651	12·24
Machinery and mill work	5,20,60,739	6,93,03,156	8·00
Sugar	5,99,86,202	6,19,95,539	7·15
Grains, pulse and flour	43,85,889	5,17,30,031	5·97
Oils	4,77,57,980	4,66,48,946	5·38
Instruments, apparatus and appliances ..	1,95,15,832	2,10,31,381	2·43
Motor cars, motor cycles and parts thereof ..	1,76,83,044	1,92,15,491	2·22
Hardware, excluding cutlery and electroplated ware	1,75,34,477	1,76,87,254	2·04
Provisions and oilman's stores	1,53,75,099	1,53,81,140	1·77
Spices	1,10,42,007	1,49,61,582	1·73
Tobacco	1,00,43,839	1,15,25,417	1·33
Postal articles not specified (see paragraph on other Articles).	1,05,33,449	1,12,58,033	1·30
Salt	1,26,64,173	1,08,24,820	1·25
Paper and pasteboard	89,99,899	1,05,22,534	1·21
Liquors, including methylated and perfumed spirits	1,07,20,745	1,03,98,735	1·20
Chemicals and chemical preparations ..	96,44,702	1,00,79,098	1·16
Woollen goods	92,17,607	93,22,879	1·08
Glass and glassware	80,73,572	74,31,996	·86
*Railway plant and rolling stock	97,26,816	....	....
†Carriages and wagons and parts for railways ..	....	72,52,303	·84
Drugs and medicines (excluding chemicals and narcotics)	71,88,934	71,21,375	·82
Rubber	67,50,512	70,09,865	·81
Artificial silk	96,00,003	56,43,655	·65
Cycles (other than motor cycles)	51,70,542	51,21,402	·59
Paints and painter's materials	58,96,105	49,61,535	·57
Tea-chests, entire or in sections	50,22,309	48,31,181	·56
Other articles	7,50,93,646	7,82,23,532	9·03
Total	83,59,24,734	86,65,64,614	100·00

*Heading abolished from April 1928, and are now recorded according to the materials of which they are made.

†Included under Railway plant prior to April 1928, and now shown under Vehicles as a sub-head.

The important items are separately dealt with in detail in the following paragraphs.

Liquors.

279. The total quantity of imports of all descriptions of liquors decreased from 2,125,840 gallons to 1,936,126 gallons and the value from Rs. 107·21 lakhs to Rs. 103·99 lakhs. This falling off was due to less imports of practically all kinds of spirits and beverages, except brandy and whisky, the value of which advanced by about a lakh of rupees and Rs. 40,000, respectively. The most noticeable decrease was in the case of beer, the amount of which fell from 1,127,737 gallons to 1,079,093 gallons. The figures realized last year in the case of beer constituted a record since the War, and this probably had the effect of overstocking the market.

Sugar.

280. In consequence of a further drop in the prices of white sugar by a rupee per cwt., the total imports rose from 291,296 tons valued at Rs. 5·65 crores to 348,585 tons valued at Rs. 6·00 crores. As a result of the abundant supply of white sugar there was very little demand for beet sugar, the imports of which amounted to 571 tons only against 1,080 tons in the previous year and 11,193 tons in 1926-27.

Despite greater storage facilities, and a drop in the prices, the imports of molasses dropped by 26,000 tons from the last year's total of 85,922 tons. The competition of Indian molasses was believed to be the cause.

Salt.

281. The price of salt, which had been high during the last three years, came down considerably; this had the effect of inflating imports, which rose from 467,311 tons to 493,940 tons, the value diminishing from Rs. 1,45·89 lakhs to Rs. 1,24·07 lakhs. Aided by the lower prices, Aden improved her share of the trade at the expense of the United Kingdom, Egypt and Spain by supplying 165,205 tons against 131,887 tons in the previous year. The most noticeable feature of the trade was the importation of 25,000 tons of cheap salt from Tripoli and 7,000 tons from Roumania. This not only had the effect of making up the deficiency caused by less imports from the United Kingdom and other foreign countries, but proved to be the dominating factor in lowering the prices of salt in general. As regards imports from the Indian ports, Bombay sent 18,132 tons only against 32,311 tons in the previous year. Karachi, however, revived her trade with Bengal by the supply of 7,549 tons of sea salt.

The proportion of salt passing through the Government bonded warehouses at Salkia increased further, and the quantity in bond at the close of the year, 87,712 tons, was the highest for four years.

282. Imports of tobacco advanced from 3,962,118 lbs. valued at Rs. 1,00:44 lakhs to 5,231,313 lbs. valued at Rs. 1,15:25 lakhs. The increase was due to the rise in the imports of unmanufactured tobacco from 1,904,076 lbs. valued at Rs. 13·66 lakhs to 3,145,156 lbs. valued at Rs. 27·27 lakhs. From this recovery it is presumed that the cigarette manufacturers in India have been successful in surmounting the difficulties which faced them when the duty on the commodity was raised two years ago. There was also a slight increase in the imports of cigarettes, 99 per cent. of which came from the United Kingdom and the balance from the United States. The imports of cigars and other sorts of tobacco, including pipe tobacco, continued to decline. Tobacco.

283. Imports of mineral oil from all sources declined from 127,717,167 gallons valued at Rs. 8,35 lakhs to 122,323,948 gallons valued at Rs. 7,39·75 lakhs, due mainly to a fall in the imports of kerosene oil from foreign countries from 45,671,475 gallons to 35,823,476 gallons. The kerosene oil trade of the year presented some very interesting features. The United States of America, which hitherto has held the whiphand in this trade, and which sent no less than 23,900,000 gallons last year, supplied only 5,300,000 gallons during the year under review. She was dispossessed of the leading position by Borneo, with a supply of 10,500,000 gallons, and by Georgia with 7,907,000 gallons. The countries which improved their positions most were Russia, whose supply increased from 1,517,468 gallons to 6,254,894 gallons, and Persia from 1,158,013 to 4,708,923 gallons. The supplies from Burma again ruled low, the total coming up to 41,805,709 gallons against the previous year's total of 41,901,260 gallons and 55,171,714 gallons in 1926-27. Mineral oil.

Amongst the suppliers of lubricating and batching oil, the United States have regained the priority lost to Borneo last year. The United Kingdom slightly improved her supply of this commodity.

The steady growth of the supply of petrol, benzine, etc., from all sources was maintained. Burma, the principal participant in the trade, improved her share by supplying 10,643,231 gallons against 9,686,888 gallons in the previous year. The gradual expansion of this trade is indicative of the growth of motor transport on this side of India.

Imports of fuel oil further increased from 6,669,553 to 8,292,874 gallons. Germany increased her supply of white oil from 998,914 gallons valued at Rs. 12·21 lakhs to 2,193,960 gallons valued at Rs. 26·77 lakhs.

Motor vehicles.

284. The steady progress in the motor trade of Bengal, discernible during the past few years, was maintained. Imports of motor vehicles and parts thereof increased in value from Rs. 1,76·83 lakhs to Rs. 1,92·16 lakhs, and tyres and tubes from Rs. 48·58 lakhs to Rs. 51·12 lakhs.

Imports of motor cars (including taxi-cabs) increased in number from 4,921 to 5,553, and in value from Rs. 1,07·52 lakhs to Rs. 1,15·77 lakhs. On account of the continued restricted imports of cheap cars from Canada, due to the temporary closing of the Ford factories, imports of cars (including taxicabs), dutiable at 20 per cent. increased by 12 per cent. The average landed cost per car fell from Rs. 2,100 to Rs. 2,000, due, it is said, to the general reduction in the price of closed cars, which are steadily gaining in popularity. A noteworthy feature of the year was the installation of an assembly plant in Bombay by one of the big manufacturing corporations; shipments of 74 uncrated cars were received from this source during the closing months of the year.

With gain in popularity of light British cars with low running costs, imports of motor cycles declined from 815 valued at Rs. 4·40 lakhs to 583 valued at Rs. 3·24 lakhs. The United Kingdom continued to hold the virtual monopoly in this trade.

Imports of commercial vehicles such as motor omnibuses and lorries, from all sources, increased in number from 1,910 to 2,348, and in value from Rs. 33·38 lakhs to Rs. 42·43 lakhs. The supply from the United Kingdom, which was restricted to the heavy type, fell from 151 to 128, while the average cost per vehicle rose from Rs. 5,400 to Rs. 6,200. The supply from the United States of America and Canada, which consisted exclusively of chassis of the average landed value of about Rs. 1,500, increased in number from 1,689 to 2,198. Besides this, a supply of 84 chassis was received by sea from Bombay.

The total number of motor tyres and tubes for tyres imported into Bengal amounted to 114,807 and 113,144, respectively, against 96,473 and 94,056 respectively in the preceding year. Imports of tyres from the United States and Canada decreased slightly, but that of tubes increased from 41,342 to 50,686. Consequent on a fall in prices by 20 per cent. supply of tyres from the United Kingdom increased in number, from 31,500 to 39,200, but that of tubes declined slightly from 40,265 to 39,998, and in value by about 14 per cent.

Drugs, medicines and chemicals.

285. The total value of drugs, medicines and chemicals imported into Bengal from all sources amounted to Rs. 1,72·00 lakhs against Rs. 1,68·34 in the previous year. Imports of miscellaneous drugs from the United Kingdom improved from

Rs. 27·60 lakhs to Rs. 29·44 lakhs, while those from Germany dropped from Rs. 13·50 lakhs to Rs. 9·92 lakhs. Both these countries contributed almost evenly to the increase in the imports of miscellaneous chemicals, but the United Kingdom continued to augment her supplies under all the other principal heads except calcium carbide and sulphur, of which the chief sources of supply were Norway and Italy.

Glass, glassware and earthenware.

285. The total value of imports of glassware and earthenware declined further from Rs. 97·55 lakhs to Rs. 90·88 lakhs. With the exception of beads, plates and sheets, there was a decline under all heads, and particularly under glass and glassware from Rs. 80·73 lakhs to Rs. 74·32 lakhs, and under the more expensive type of glass bangles from Germany and Czecho-Slovakia. The cheaper Japanese varieties, which fell in number, increased slightly in value. Imports of most kinds of glassware from Japan increased, while those from the United Kingdom declined.

The total value of earthenware dropped a little from Rs. 16·81 lakhs to Rs. 16·56 lakhs.

Machinery and mill work.

287. The total value of imports of machinery and mill work improved further from Rs. 5,36 lakhs to Rs. 6,93·03 lakhs. This amount included Rs. 89·08 lakhs on account of prime movers and Rs. 55·97 lakhs for electrical machinery. With the exception of a slight decrease in the imports of coal-mining machinery and sewing and knitting machines, imports of all other kinds of industrial machinery showed a decided improvement. The items of machinery to record most of the increases were paper from Rs. 9·14 lakhs to Rs. 29·50 lakhs, cotton from Rs. 20·13 lakhs to Rs. 23·86 lakhs, tea from Rs. 24·4 lakhs to Rs. 26·6 lakhs, sugar from Rs. 7·1 lakhs to Rs. 16·5 lakhs, and jute from Rs. 93·91 lakhs to Rs. 126·56 lakhs. This improvement was chiefly due to the abolition of the duty on machinery and the imposition of protective duties on certain manufactured products such as paper and yarn.

The United Kingdom again secured the leading position in this trade by supplying 82·6 per cent. of the total imports. She was followed by the United States and Germany.

In spite of the protective duty on manufactured machinery the imports of belting remained more or less stationary at Rs. 31 lakhs, the United Kingdom again monopolising the bulk of the trade.

Metals and metal manufactures.

288. During the year under review the total imports of iron and steel amounted to 491,794 tons valued at Rs. 8,37·20 lakhs against 431,170 tons valued at Rs. 8,10·04 lakhs. The inflation in

these figures was partly due to the inclusion of figures under the heading "Iron and steel railway sleepers," of which 47,531 tons worth Rs. 38·16 lakhs were received; in previous years these used to be shown under the head "Machinery and mill work." It was also partly due to the increased imports of bar, angle, channel, and beam, the aggregate tonnage of which rose from 127,681 to 142,986, and to labour troubles in the local industry. Of the total imports 400,727 tons were covered by protective duties.

The United Kingdom and Belgium were again the chief contributors in this trade, and while the former supplied 65 per cent. of the imports, the latter improved her last year's supplies by 46 per cent.

Imports of metals and ores other than iron and steel increased in quantity from 405,657 cwts. to 411,342 cwts. but the value decreased from Rs. 2,38·52 lakhs to Rs. 2,20·72 lakhs. This increase in the quantity was mainly due to the increase in the imports of brass, bronze and similar alloys from 117,018 cwts. to 124,656 cwts., and zinc or spelter from 86,329 cwts. to 104,687 cwts. The decrease in the total value of imports was due to falling prices. Amongst the articles to show less imports the most prominent were lead, which fell from 18,615 cwts. to 13,146 cwts. owing to the increased use of aluminium as a lining for tea chests, and tin from 41,679 cwts. to 32,183 cwts.

Paper and pasteboard.

289. The total imports of papers of all kinds and pasteboards increased from 581,463 cwts. valued at Rs. 90·00 lakhs to 691,494 cwts. valued at Rs. 105·23 lakhs, the increase being under almost all the heads. Imports of packing paper advanced from 61,971 cwts. to 72,406 cwts. Imports from Germany rose from 17,504 cwts. to 28,127 cwts. and made up for less supplies from Sweden and the United Kingdom. Imports of writing paper and envelopes dropped slightly from 30,580 cwts. to 29,788 cwts. due to less supplies by the United Kingdom. As a result of the increased supplies of old newspapers by the United Kingdom, the total imports of miscellaneous papers (including old newspapers) advanced from 165,446 cwts. to 205,456 cwts. An improvement was also noticed in the imports of pasteboards, which rose from 123,674 cwts. to 146,267 cwts., the United Kingdom increasing her supplies from 20,305 cwts. to 40,728 cwts., and Germany from 8,690 cwts. to 20,132 cwts. Imports of wood pulp from Norway fell off, but increased supplies from Sweden and Austria made good the deficit.

Cotton manufactures.

290. During the year under review there was a general depression in the trade of cotton goods. The total value of the

imports, which showed a general falling off under all heads, amounted to Rs. 24,10·20 lakhs against the previous year's total of Rs. 28,10·81 lakhs. The reason for this depression was attributed to the general dullness in the demand due to the accumulation of stocks in the market since 1927-28. To discourage overtrading certain interests decided to place an embargo on the shipments of grey dhooties and grey shirtings for April, May and September, and also on the shipments of light white goods for April, May, June and July. On the advent of the monsoon the situation improved and a fair amount of business was booked. But this forward movement was soon checked, as the purchases showed no sign of profit owing to the fall in the prices of cloth.

A noticeable feature in the trade was the formation of a combination of manufacturers, dyers, merchants, shippers and banks, known as the "Vertical" combine in the United Kingdom with a view to meet competition by mass production of standardised goods. It cannot yet be definitely ascertained whether the cloth produced by this combine has met with much success in the Indian market, but it sold very well in China in the teeth of severe Japanese competition.

Imports of twists and yarns decreased in quantity from 13,845,918 lbs. to 12,121,733 lbs., but the value improved from Rs. 1,58·69 lakhs to Rs. 1,60·37 lakhs. This rise in the value was due to the increased imports of grey yarn of counts of 41s and over, while the increased production by the Indian mills of yarns of counts up to 40s, coupled with a protective duty on imported yarns, affected the quantity. The contribution of the United Kingdom in this trade increased from 37 per cent. to 42 per cent., while that of Japan decreased from 23 per cent. to 7 per cent. China improved her share by supplying 48 per cent. against 34 per cent. in the previous year. This was mainly the result of the establishment of Japanese mills in that country. The United Kingdom lost considerable ground in coloured yarns.

Imports of piece-goods (grey) declined in quantity from 664,411,776 lbs. to 604,754,736 lbs., and in value from Rs. 15,82·85 lakhs to Rs. 14,26·70 lakhs. The United Kingdom was again the chief participator in this trade, but the percentage of her supplies fell from 86·80 to 81·22. The percentage of Japan's supplies rose from 13·05 to 18·40. The United Kingdom suffered mainly in the coarser qualities, especially dhooties and shirtings. The high quotations from Lancashire reacted against the demand, while the Japanese and Chinese piece-goods were preferred for their superior finish and get-up.

Imports of white goods declined from 189,376,083 lbs. valued at Rs. 472·39 lakhs to 126,298,994 lbs. valued at Rs. 3,11·46 lakhs. The United Kingdom continued to handle 97 per cent. of this trade.

The trade in coloured goods also fared badly. It declined from 133,951,716 lbs. to 109,944,978 lbs. in quantity, and from 4,55·07 lakhs to Rs. 3,71·04 lakhs in value. The decline in the share of the United Kingdom in this trade is due to the fact that the cost of dyeing on the Continent is considerably lower than in England. Japan was able to bring in a quantity of attractive printed shirting at lower prices, known as "Cotton Bosekie," which is very popular in the market.

Silk and artificial silk piece-goods.

291. During the year under review imports of silk and artificial silk piece-goods of all kinds fell off considerably from 14,171,319 yards valued at Rs. 99·40 lakhs to 8,879,977 yards valued at Rs. 60·01 lakhs. In spite of this heavy reduction in the total imports, the supply of silk piece-goods proper improved in yardage from 567,338 to 631,931. Owing to a reduction in the prices the value dropped from Rs. 8·85 lakhs to Rs. 8·79 lakhs. Imports of silk manufactures also improved from 139,150 yards to 148,147 yards. The falling off in the trade was in the imports of artificial silk piece-goods, which fell from 13,464,831 yards to 8,099,899 yards. This heavy decline was partly the result of over-buying in the previous year, and partly to the growing tendency in the Amritsar and Delhi areas to import via Karachi rather than via Calcutta.

Woollen goods.

292. The total value of imports of all kinds showed a slight advance from Rs. 92·18 lakhs to Rs. 93·23 lakhs. A noteworthy feature of the trade was the amazing strides made by Italy. Five or six years ago her share in the trade was trivial, but this year she was the largest exporter to this market, although the total value of her supplies, which amounted to Rs. 30·89 lakhs, fell short of the United Kingdom's by about three lakhs.

Owing to the growing demand for cheap blankets, imports under carpets and rugs (including blankets) improved in quantity from 1,393,649 lbs. to 2,215,996 lbs., and in value from Rs. 16·34 lakhs to Rs. 22·39 lakhs. To this increase all the principal suppliers except Belgium contributed, Italy, France and Germany showing the greatest expansion. Imports of hosiery, most of which came from the United Kingdom, also improved in quantity as well as in value from Rs. 4·31 lakhs to Rs. 5·93 lakhs. Imports of woollen piece-goods, while improving in quantity, declined in value from Rs. 46·43 lakhs to Rs. 42·19 lakhs. The reason for

this was the increased supply by both Italy and the United Kingdom at a much lower cost. Italy secured about half of this trade at the expense of Germany, Holland, France, Belgium and Japan. The total value of shawls imported declined from Rs. 16·73 lakhs to Rs. 14·97 lakhs due to lesser imports from all the countries except Italy, whose share advanced in value from Rs. 1·11 lakhs to Rs. 3·01 lakhs.

Other articles.

293. Of the items of minor importance, grain, pulse and flour showed the most marked advance, the total value increasing from Rs. 44 lakhs to Rs. 517 lakhs. This extraordinary improvement was the result of a very large import of wheat from Australia and Canada to make up the deficit in the supplies of the commodity in Northern India. Imports of instruments, apparatus and appliances recorded a further advance from Rs. 195 lakhs to Rs. 210 lakhs due chiefly to the value of electrical instruments advancing from Rs. 1,33 lakhs to Rs. 1,45 lakhs, the United Kingdom's share in this trade being Rs. 1,15 lakhs against her last year's total of Rs. 1,08 lakhs. The value of hardware rose from Rs. 1,75 lakhs to Rs. 1,77 lakhs of which the United Kingdom secured Rs. 73 lakhs and Germany Rs. 53 lakhs. The trade in provisions and oilman's stores remained stationary at Rs. 1,54 lakhs, but the share of the United Kingdom in it dropped from Rs. 66 lakhs to Rs. 63 lakhs. The value of postal articles not specified, expanded from Rs. 1,05 lakhs to Rs. 1,13 lakhs, as well as the total value of cigarettes, jewellery, precious stones, cinematograph films and gold and silver thread imported through the post from Rs. 6·82 lakhs to Rs. 7·59 lakhs. Imports of paints and painters' materials declined from Rs. 59 lakhs to Rs. 50 lakhs due mostly to the decrease in imports from the United Kingdom from Rs. 37 lakhs to Rs. 32 lakhs. Imports of tea chests declined from Rs. 50 lakhs to Rs. 48 lakhs, of which the United Kingdom secured Rs. 39 lakhs. The total value of imports of bicycles, most of which came from the United Kingdom, dropped by a lakh of rupees from the last year's total of Rs. 52 lakhs. Imports of building and engineering materials declined in value from Rs. 34 lakhs to Rs. 31 lakhs, but that of raw wool, most of which came from Australia, expanded from Rs. 12 lakhs to Rs. 22 lakhs.

Import trade of Chittagong.

294. The total value of imports from foreign countries into the port of Chittagong declined from Rs. 2,82 lakhs to Rs. 2,35 lakhs. This decrease was the result of a shrinkage in the imports under practically all the heads and more particularly under machinery and railway materials, the former falling from Rs. 74·00 lakhs to Rs. 59·38 lakhs, and the latter from Rs. 16·85 lakhs to nil, due to the Assam-Bengal Railway not requiring these materials. Another item to show considerable falling off was metals, the value

of which dropped from Rs. 1,29·65 lakhs to Rs. 1,15·44 lakhs. There was, however, a revival in the imports of sugar at this port, the value of which amounted to Rs. 2·48 lakhs. The United Kingdom again secured 87 per cent. of the total import trade while Aden had 4 per cent., Netherlands and Egypt 2 per cent. each and Spain and Java 1 per cent. each.

Exports.

295. Exports of Indian merchandise from the port of Calcutta decreased from Rs. 1,37,67,38,779 to Rs. 1,36,92,68,517. The comparative importance of the principal articles exported from Calcutta is shown in the following table:—

	1927-28.	1928-29.	Percentage of proportion to total merchandise exported.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Jute manufactures	53,46,83,543	56,81,59,808	41·50
Jute, raw	29,08,88,862	30,76,95,922	22·47
Tea	21,53,27,738	16,72,53,707	12·22
Lac	6,91,12,746	8,47,36,373	6·19
Hides and skins, raw	5,78,89,223	5,71,02,183	4·17
Metals and ores	3,37,59,550	3,67,57,809	2·68
Grain, pulse and flour	3,59,64,814	2,96,18,835	2·16
Seeds	3,15,67,839	1,84,22,001	1·35
Opium	1,99,08,000	1,57,40,000	1·15
Oil-cakes	73,48,974	92,02,521	·67
Mica	78,91,700	74,24,300	·54
Coal, coke and patent fuel	76,26,572	71,81,868	·52
Hemp, raw	53,67,027	68,06,640	·50
Postal articles	61,13,845	61,69,138	·45
Manures	56,06,195	59,47,037	·43
Cotton, raw	71,77,423	58,32,014	·43
Dyeing and tanning substances	80,75,983	57,42,366	·42
Woollen manufactures	46,57,789	45,06,577	·33
Provisions and oilman's stores	27,19,688	27,46,687	·20
Spices	39,12,369	22,35,956	·16
Drugs and medicines	13,63,689	19,46,152	·14
Paraffin wax	26,06,090	19,15,480	·14
Apparel (excluding hosiery, boots and shoes)	18,66,055	13,80,312	·10
Tobacco	13,33,798	13,32,177	·10
Kapok	16,32,602	11,61,239	·09
Oils	13,99,665	11,39,952	·08
Cordage and rope	10,82,734	10,09,683	·07
Saltpetre	9,79,359	9,64,922	·07
Leather	5,77,810	7,83,715	·06
Fruits and vegetables	5,97,721	7,75,318	·06
Animals, living	7,26,962	7,25,095	·05
Instruments	13,41,455	7,22,944	·05
Bristles	7,63,488	6,59,016	·05
Paint and painter's materials	4,41,997	5,93,837	·04
Other articles	44,15,474	48,76,933	·36
Total Indian merchandise	1,37,67,38,779	1,36,92,68,517	100·00

Grain, pulse and flour.

296. There was a considerable set-back in the exports of grain, pulse and flour during the year under report. The exports under all the heads amounted to 149,148 tons, the value being Rs. 2,96·19 lakhs against 177,788 tons and Rs. 3,59·65 lakhs in the previous

year, and were less than in any of the last five years. Rice, which is the chief item of export under this head, fell from 126,883 tons to 106,884 tons owing to good harvests and lower prices in Burma and Saigon. Exports of wheat and barley improved considerably, the former from 421 tons to 1,528 tons and the latter from 1,962 tons to 7,064 tons. The improvement in the shipments of barley was chiefly due to the export of 4,925 tons, worth Rs. 5,15,256, to Germany.

Tea.

297. Owing to over-production during the last few years the progress enjoyed by the tea industry of Bengal since 1921-22 received a check. There was again a general increase in the outturn from all producing countries, and with the heavy surplus stock of last year, supplies were much in excess of the demand, and prices generally ruled low. "' Common tea, which comprised most of the stock, at times sold below the cost of production.

The total quantity of tea shipped from Calcutta to the various countries amounted to 229,908,528 lbs. valued at Rs. 16,72·5 lakhs against 238,073,947 lbs. valued at Rs. 21,53·28 lakhs in the previous year. The United Kingdom was, as usual, the chief customer for tea, her purchases amounted to more than 75 per cent. of the total quantity exported against 80 per cent. in the previous year. Purchases by Canada, Australia and China increased while those by the United States, Russia and Germany decreased.

The United States were the principal purchasers of tea waste taking 3·78 of the 3·87 million pounds exported. The principal buyer of tea seed was Sumatra, and next in order came Georgia, Java and Portuguese East Africa.

Coal.

298. Exports of coal to foreign ports increased from 631,115 tons valued at Rs. 75·72 lakhs to 638,774 tons valued at Rs. 71·32 lakhs. The advance in the trade was noticeable in this respect that, while shipments to Ceylon and the Straits Settlements decreased from 382,607 tons and 157,647 tons to 348,104 tons and 58,466 tons, respectively, shipments to other countries increased from 90,861 tons to 2,32,204 tons, and, in value, from Rs. 9·58 lakhs to Rs. 23·45 lakhs.

Lac.

299. The total exports of lac (manufactured and raw) increased from 534,309 cwts. to 721,803 cwts. in quantity, and from Rs. 6,91·13 lakhs to Rs. 8,47·36 lakhs in value. This advance was due to increased demands from all foreign countries and especially from the United States, which took 240,582 cwts. against 171,906 cwts. in the previous year. A noticeable feature of the trade was that, despite the further increase in the exports of stick

and seed lac of which 77,758 cwts. out of a total of 98,711 cwts. went to the United States, the exports of shellac and button lac reached the highest figure in quantity as well as in value. There was a further improvement in the exports of refuse lac, most of which went to Germany and Belgium.

Hides and skins.

300. The trade in hides and skins, which made considerable recovery last year, again declined from 39,749 tons to 36,175 tons, and in value from Rs. 5,83·81 lakhs to Rs. 5,77·96 lakhs. The exports of raw hides declined from 28,932 tons to 23,951 tons. The fall in the shipments of raw hides was due to smaller purchases by Germany, Italy, Finland, and more especially by the United Kingdom, whose share dropped heavily from 1,060 tons to 268 tons only. The only countries to increase their demands were Spain and Turkey.

In raw skins, the export of which advanced slightly from 9,423 tons to 10,316 tons, the United States maintained the leading position, exports to that country rising from 7,943 tons to 8,635 tons. The share of the United Kingdom declined from 185 tons to only 86 tons. The growth of the lizard skin trade noticed in the last two previous years was fully maintained, and no less than 1,890,117 pieces, valued at Rs. 24·28 lakhs, were exported during the year against 1,802,630 pieces at Rs. 29·50 lakhs. The local tanning of these skins also increased, and 408,935 pieces of tanned skins, valued at Rs. 6·14 lakhs, were exported as against 150,445 pieces, valued at Rs. 4·04 lakhs, in the previous year. These figures indicate that the restrictions imposed by Government on the slaughter of iguanas, which were much resented by the people in the trade, did not affect the trade during the year.

France was the principal customer for raw skins, and the United States and the United Kingdom for tanned.

Metals and ores.

301. During the year under review, the total value of the exports of metals, and ores increased from Rs. 3,37·59 lakhs to Rs. 3,67·57 lakhs, due mainly to the increased exports of pig iron. In the manganese ore trade, the exports to the United Kingdom fell from 157,613 to 115,700 tons. A smaller quantity was shipped to the United States and nothing to Japan. Belgium, on the other hand, took 113,010 tons as against 97,094 tons, and France 82,600 tons as against 68,470 tons. The trade in ferro-manganese was revived during the year, and 1,506 tons of the metal were exported, mostly to New Zealand. Exports of pig iron rose in value from Rs. 1,78·72 lakhs to Rs. 2,11·31 lakhs. This was due to increased shipments to Japan, China and Italy. The exports of scrap iron and steel advanced from 54,744 tons to 66,883 tons,

of which Japan took 60,306 tons as compared with 42,362 tons in 1927-28. There was a considerable improvement in the exports of lead, zinc and other metals, which rose from 59,311 tons to 72,274 tons, including 470 tons of peroxide ore sent to Germany, and 105 tons of garnet ore to Belgium.

Mica.

302. Though the total exports of mica advanced from 69,799 cwts. to 84,661 cwts. the value decreased from Rs. 78·92 lakhs to Rs. 74·24 lakhs. This falling of in the value was due to a reduction in the prices of mica splittings and a decline in the exports of block mica. Exports of block mica fell from 9,751 cwts., valued at Rs. 25·16 lakhs, to 8,531 cwts., valued at Rs. 20·88 lakhs. The principal customers were the United Kingdom, which took only 3,082 cwts. against 5,274 cwts., the United States and France. Helped by lower prices the demand for mica splittings advanced from 60,048 cwts. to 76,130 cwts., but the value declined from Rs. 53·75 lakhs to Rs. 53·35 lakhs. The chief customers were the United States which took 28,256 cwts. valued at Rs. 20·70 lakhs, the United Kingdom, 26,920 cwts. valued at Rs. 19·15 lakhs, and Germany, 10,217 cwts. valued at Rs. 6·37 lakhs.

Oil seeds and vegetable oil.

303. The slight recovery made last year in the trade of oil-seeds and vegetable oils was not maintained, the value of exports declining from Rs. 3,92·14 lakhs to Rs. 2,82·86 lakhs. This set-back was due to the heavy falling off in the shipments of linseed and vegetable oils, which the increased business under oil-cakes failed to balance. Owing to unfavourable weather the yield of the linseed crop was very much less than the average yield for the last five years; prices rose and remained practically steady throughout the year. In consequence of this rise in the prices, the exports of oilseeds as a whole fell from 149,217 tons valued at Rs. 3,04·68 lakhs to 86,473 tons valued at Rs. 1,76·66 lakhs. Shipments of linseed fell from 133,795 tons to 77,002 tons, due mainly to the reduction in the demands from the United Kingdom from 51,092 tons to 9,850 tons; castor seed declined from 12,198 tons to 7,901 tons, and rape seed from 2,548 tons to 760 tons, due to France taking nothing against 651 tons, and Japan reducing her demand from 700 tons to 100 tons. Exports of vegetable oils also fell from 554,273 gallons to 468,462 gallons in quantity, and from Rs. 13·97 lakhs to Rs. 11·17 lakhs in value, due to less shipments of all descriptions of oil except groundnut oil; the commodity to suffer most under this head was mustard oil, which declined from 321,345 gallons to 264,738 gallons, Mauritius again being the principal buyer. The chief customer for castor oil was Australia, which took 54,662 gallons. Oil-cakes was the only head under which the business advanced, from 32,154 tons to 40,965 tons, of which Japan took 36,695 tons and Germany 2,740 tons.

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Cotton and cotton manufactures.

304. After a slight recovery last year, the exports of raw cotton declined again from 8,385 tons valued at Rs. 71·77 lakhs to 6,062 tons valued at Rs. 57·55 lakhs. This falling off was due to Japan reducing her demands from 1,261 tons to 195 tons only. Shipments to the United States also fell from 2,553 tons to 2,230 tons, and to Germany from 3,023 tons to 2,018 tons. Exports of twists and yarns increased from 10,000 tons valued at Rs. ·03 lakhs to 22,318 tons valued at Rs. ·14 lakhs due mainly to the Straits Settlements taking 8,596 tons against nothing in the previous year.

Hemp.

305. The export trade in hemp was quite satisfactory during the year. The crop was good and the average price fell from Rs. 15-11-3 to Rs. 14-15-11. As a result of this fall in the prices, exports advanced from 341,801 cwts. valued at Rs. 53·67 lakhs to 453,913 cwts. valued at Rs. 68·06 lakhs. Belgium was again the principal customer, her total purchases amounting to 245,797 cwts. against 176,445 cwts. in the previous year. Italy, which grows her own hemp, also increased her demand from 23,120 cwts. to 54,967 cwts., as did Germany from 38,831 cwts. to 44,956 cwts., and the United Kingdom from 35,766 cwts. to 37,749 cwts.

Jute and jute manufactures.

306. The prosperity attained in the jute trade of Bengal in 1927-28 was fully maintained, and the shipments during the year of both manufactured and raw jute reached the total figure of 1,768,272 tons against the record figure of 1,734,590 tons of that year, with a corresponding rise in the value to Rs. 87,58·56 lakhs against Rs. 82,55·73 lakhs. This advance was also reflected in the business of the Indian jute mills, which made a profit of Rs. 7·23 crores in 1928 against, Rs. 6·67 crores in 1927. The net collections of jute cess for the Calcutta Improvement Trust, however, declined from Rs. 13·36 lakhs to Rs. 12·31 lakhs.

Exports of raw jute increased slightly, in quantity, from 851,431 tons to 858,260 tons, and, in value, from Rs. 29,08·89 lakhs to Rs. 30,76·96 lakhs. The market opened in April with the price of the first marks of raw jute reigning at Rs. 67 per bale of 400 lbs. and, except for occasional fluctuations, remained practically steady throughout the first quarter of the year. During this period the supplies were abundant, and 1·7 million bales were imported from the cultivating areas into Calcutta and the mill stations, as compared with 1·46 million bales during the corresponding period of the previous year. At the beginning of the second quarter the price began to ascend, and by the end of July it reached Rs. 83 per bale, and ruled at this high level throughout the rest of July and August. Thereafter, it began to

slacken and came down to Rs. 69 in September and to Rs. 64 in October. Early in 1929 it again jumped up to Rs. 70 per bale, and hovered round that figure during the rest of the period. Imports into Calcutta during this period totalled 9·45 million bales, about the same as last year. The average shipment price per bale of 400 lbs. was Rs. 64-0-4 as against Rs. 61-0-2 in the preceding year. Germany was again the principle buyer of raw jute, her purchases advancing, in quantity, from 245,331 tons to 254,292 tons, and, in value, from Rs. 8,36·49 lakhs to Rs. 8,74·14 lakhs. After Germany came the United Kingdom, but her purchases declined from 198,218 tons to 176,280 tons. There were also increased purchases by France, the United States, Italy and Belgium, but those by Spain, Brazil and Japan declined.

Shipment of gunny bags improved from 462 millions, valued at Rs. 23,21·60 lakhs to 496 millions, valued at Rs. 24,87·35 lakhs. This improvement was again due mainly to the increased exports of sacking bags from 379 millions to 410 millions. The exports of hessian bags also improved from 83 millions to 86 millions. Australasia was again the chief customer for these goods, her purchases advancing from 87 millions to 102 millions. Increased purchases were also made by Java, Cuba, Chile and Peru and other minor countries, but demands by the United States, Japan, Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, France and other European countries declined.

Exports of gunny cloth improved in yardage from 1,552 millions valued at Rs. 29,92·04 lakhs to 1,567 millions valued at Rs. 31,61·44 lakhs. This slight improvement in quantity was due to increased shipments of hessian cloth at the expense of sacking cloth. Purchases by the United States were slightly reduced, though that country was again the principal customer. The countries to improve their purchases most were Canada, the Treaty Ports in China and Hong-Kong, and those to reduce their demands were the United Kingdom, from 31 millions to 29 millions and Germany from 394,500 to 192,500.

307. The export trade in saltpetre, which advanced in quantity from 86,441 cwts. to 90,285 cwts., declined in value from Rs. 9·79 lakhs to Rs. 9·65 lakhs. The bulk of this trade was, as usual, absorbed by Ceylon, which increased her purchases from 58,640 cwts. to 66,368 cwts. The United Kingdom also improved her purchases from 10,760 cwts. to 13,236 cwts., but the demands of Mauritius declined considerably from 12,682 cwts. to 6,350 cwts. **Saltpetre.**

308. There was a further drop in the exports of opium from 4,977 chests, valued at Rs. 1,99·08 lakhs, to 3,935 chests, valued **Opium.**

at Rs. 1,57·40 lakhs. This decline was due to Indo-China curtailing her purchases from 2,142 chests to 1,522 chests, Siam from 1,565 chests to 1,391 chests and Java from 1,205 chests to 964 chests. The United Kingdom took nothing this year against her last year's purchase of 543 chests of medicinal opium.

Dyeing and tanning substances.

309. The exports during 1928-29 were smaller than those of 1927-28, the quantity falling from 52,061 tons to 36,419 tons. This decline was mainly due to the decrease in the shipments of myrobalans, which fell from 48,243 tons to 33,252 tons owing to the smaller demands from the United States and Germany.

Shipments of indigo fell from 1,363 cwts. to 628 cwts. Exports of cutch and gambier advanced in quantity from 5,154 cwts. to 7,298 cwts, and, in value, from Rs. 93,883 to Rs. 1,31,736, the United Kingdom taking 3,704 cwts. and France 1,669 cwts. Safflower and turmeric were again in poor demand, and the quantities shipped fell from 1,900 cwts. and 2,739 cwts. to 1,546 cwts. and 2,478 cwts., respectively.

Other articles.

310. Of the articles of minor importance, the exports of manures advanced from Rs. 56 lakhs to Rs. 59 lakhs, due mainly to the increased shipment of bones, the total value of which amounted to Rs. 44 lakhs. Shipments of woollen manufactures, consisting mainly of carpets and rugs, decreased from Rs. 47 lakhs to Rs. 45 lakhs, and those of paraffin wax from Rs. 26 lakhs to Rs. 19 lakhs. There was an increase in the value of the exports of fruits and vegetables from Rs. 5·97 lakhs to Rs. 7·75 lakhs, the bulk of this trade being in dried fruits, valued at Rs. 6·78 lakhs. Exports of spices fell in value from Rs. 39 lakhs to Rs. 22 lakhs due to less shipments to Singapore. The values realized for the shipments of tobacco, provisions and oilman's stores were about the same as in last year. Japan took unmanufactured tobacco worth Rs. 11 lakhs. The chief item in provisions was ghee, the exports of which accounted for Rs. 22 lakhs out of Rs. 27 lakhs under this main head.

Foreign exports from Chittagong.

311. During the year under review exports from Chittagong to foreign ports declined considerably in value, from Rs. 8,70 lakhs to Rs. 7,39 lakhs. This setback was due to the value of exports of tea, on account of lower prices, falling from Rs. 6,95·63 lakhs to Rs. 5,64·25 lakhs, and that of raw jute, due to less shipments, falling from Rs. 1,52·18 lakhs to Rs. 1,48·98 lakhs. The United Kingdom was again the principal participator in this trade, her share covering 92 per cent. against 90 per cent. in the previous year. Of the balance the United States secured 4 per cent. and Germany 3 per cent.

312. The following table shows the distribution of the import and export trade of Calcutta.

Distribution of export and import trade of Calcutta.

	Imports.				Exports.			
	1927-28.		1928-29.		1927-28.		1928-29.	
	Value Rs. (lakhs.)	Percentage to total imports.	Value Rs. (lakhs).	Percentage to total imports.	Value Rs. (lakhs).	Percentage to total exports.	Value Rs. (lakhs).	Percentage to total exports.
United Kingdom	47,57·86	56·91	44,21·98	51·03	33,39·49	24·13	26,75·64	19·46
British Possessions ..	4,37·43	5·23	9,23·44	10·66	19,10·59	13·81	19,78·47	14·38
Germany	3,87·84	4·64	4,13·65	4·77	12,21·54	8·83	12,21·31	8·88
France	81·87	·98	80·94	·93	5,42·07	3·92	5,59·18	4·07
Belgium	1,44·05	1·72	1,70·22	1·97	2,76·47	2·00	3,57·48	2·60
Italy	1,69·19	2·02	1,62·93	1·88	2,36·39	1·71	2,88·15	2·09
Java	6,28·68	7·52	6,47·25	7·47	2,09·64	1·52	2,83·41	2·06
Japan	5,31·33	6·35	5,97·52	6·90	3,83·99	2·77	4,15·26	3·02
United States	5,89·13	7·04	5,27·65	6·09	30,05·32	21·72	31,96·45	23·25
South America	4·73	·06	13·30	·15	10,51·90	7·60	10,76·47	7·83
Other countries	6,28·40	7·53	7,06·77	8·15	16,60·95	11·99	17,00·48	12·36
Total ..	83,60·51	1,00·00	86,65·65	100·00	1,38,38·35	100·00	1,37,52·30	100·00

The trade of the United Kingdom with Calcutta recorded a further setback from Rs. 80,97·68 lakhs to Rs. 70,97·62 lakhs. This decline was due to the general falling off in the value of both imports and exports. On the import side, the total value declined from Rs. 47,58 lakhs to Rs. 44,22 lakhs, due chiefly to the sharp drop in the value of cotton piece-goods, and also to the decline in the value of manufactures of wool, liquors, provisions, tea chests, haberdashery and millinery. There was, however, some advance under certain heads, the most noticeable amongst them being machinery, drugs and medicines, paper and chemicals. On the export side, the decline in the value amounted to Rs. 26,76 lakhs as against Rs. 33,39 lakhs in the previous year. There were declines in value under almost all the important heads, especially tea. The only item to show substantial advance was lac.

The share of the United Kingdom in the grand total of Calcutta's trade sustained a further decline from 36·19 per cent. to 31·66 per cent.

The trade with British possessions and dependencies improved remarkably during the year. On the imports side the value rose from Rs. 4,37 lakhs to Rs. 9,23 lakhs, due mainly to increased imports from Ceylon, Australia and Canada of cocoanut oil, wheat and motor vehicles, respectively. The Straits Settlements sent spices worth Rs. 1,35 lakhs, which exceeded last year's figures by nearly Rs. 40 lakhs. On the export side, the value also rose from Rs. 19,10 lakhs to Rs. 19,78 lakhs, due to increased purchases by Australia, Canada, Hong-Kong, South Africa and Mauritius. Australia took a record number of gunny bags, and Canada increased her quantities of tea and gunny cloth. Exports to the Straits Settlements and Ceylon declined.

During the year under review imports from Germany recorded a further advance from Rs. 3,87·84 lakhs to Rs. 4,13·65 lakhs, due chiefly to increased imports of hardware, metals, drugs and medicines, machinery and paper. Exports to Germany were maintained practically at the last year's figures. She took more of raw jute, lac and barley, but less of tea, hides and skins and mica. Imports from Russia, which consisted almost entirely of kerosine oil, advanced from Rs. 9·52 lakhs to Rs. 39·11 lakhs, but the total value of the exports to that country declined from Rs. 48·55 lakhs to Rs. 24·13 lakhs, tea being the only article to be sent in any quantity. In spite of an advance in the value of liquors from Rs. 16 lakhs to Rs. 17 lakhs, imports from France declined slightly from Rs. 81·87 lakhs to Rs. 80·94 lakhs. This falling off was, however, counterbalanced by a rise in the value of exports from Rs. 5,42·07 lakhs to Rs. 5,59·18 lakhs due chiefly to the increased supply of raw jute, hides and skins, lac and

metals. Notwithstanding the slight improvements recorded in the imports of condensed milk and vegetable products, the total import value of goods from the Netherlands declined by Rs. 10 lakhs to Rs. 99 lakhs. The value of exports to the Netherlands also declined by about Rs. 15 lakhs, due chiefly to less exports of raw jute. By her supply of metals, iron and steel, worth Rs. 1,00 lakhs, Belgium was able to improve her position in the import trade of Bengal from Rs. 1,42·46 lakhs to Rs. 1,70·22 lakhs. Exports to that country also showed great improvement, especially in hides and skins, hemp, raw jute, and jute manufactures. There was a fall in the value of imports from Italy from Rs. 1,69·19 lakhs to Rs. 1,62·93 lakhs, due principally to her selling fewer motor cars, which a substantial improvement under manufactures of wool failed to balance. She, however, improved her share in the export trade from Rs. 2,36·39 lakhs to Rs. 2,88·15 lakhs, by taking increased quantities of raw jute, hemp and lac. Imports of paper and pasteboard from Norway improved while that of wood pulp declined. Imports of matches from Sweden declined materially, the total value barely reaching Rs. 2 lakhs.

The trade with Java showed an all round improvement. She supplied sugar much in excess of the previous year, and increased her purchases of gunny bags. China improved her supplies of cotton twist and yarn, and her purchases of tea and jute manufactures. The trade with Japan improved from Rs. 5,31·33 lakhs to Rs. 5,97·52 lakhs on the import side, and from Rs. 3,83·99 lakhs to Rs. 4,15·26 lakhs on the export side. The value of her supplies of textiles advanced by Rs. 56 lakhs to Rs. 4,79 lakhs, and that of buttons, glassware, paper and stationery also improved. The exports to Japan of lac, linseed and pig iron were in excess of the previous year, but the value of jute manufactures supplied fell considerably. Persia improved her supplies of kerosine oil from Rs. 12 lakhs to Rs. 41 lakhs. Egypt sent less salt but increased her supplies of tea and jute. Portuguese East Africa took less paraffin wax, and a considerable fall was recorded in the supply of salt by Italian East Africa.

Imports from the United States declined from Rs. 5,89·13 lakhs to Rs. 5,27·65 lakhs due principally to the decline in the supplies of kerosine oil from that country. There was, however, considerable improvement in her sales of boots and shoes, instruments, machinery, tobacco and motor cars, while those of hardware, rubber, paper and building and engineering materials declined. On the export side, the total value of her purchases advanced from Rs. 30,05·32 lakhs to Rs. 31,96·45 lakhs, due mainly to her increased demand for raw jute and jute manufactures, lac, manures and wool manufactures. She, however, took less tea,

mica, pig iron and dyeing substances. The Argentine Republic increased her purchases of gunny cloth, lac and tea, and Chile and Peru of gunny cloth. Cuba also took an increased quantity of gunny cloth, but less of rice.

Coasting Trade.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1928-29.]

313. The total trade of Calcutta with other parts in India advanced from Rs. 32,31·18 to Rs. 36,03·98 lakhs. This improvement was due to increased business under all heads.

Imports.

314. The import trade of Calcutta advanced from Rs. 17,98·64 lakhs to Rs. 20,96·70 lakhs, Burma, as usual, being the principal supplier.

The total value of goods supplied by Burma advanced from Rs. 10,68·12 lakhs to Rs. 14,24·53 lakhs. This was due to her increased despatches of rice, from Rs. 2,33 lakhs to Rs. 6,68 lakhs, of lac, from Rs. 38 lakhs to Rs. 80 lakhs, and of fresh vegetables, from Rs. 34 lakhs to Rs. 42 lakhs. The effect of these large increases was marred by the heavy fall in the imports of mineral oil from Rs. 4,00 lakhs to Rs. 3,32 lakhs, of paddy from Rs. 60 lakhs to Rs. 28 lakhs, and of timber from Rs. 2,01 lakhs to Rs. 1,42 lakhs. Imports from Bombay fell considerably from Rs. 3,88·10 lakhs to Rs. 2,54·36 lakhs, due mainly to the fall in the imports of grey piece-goods from Rs. 2,09 lakhs to Rs. 99 lakhs, of twist and yarns from Rs. 55 lakhs to Rs. 24 lakhs, and of salt from Rs. 19 lakhs to Rs. 10 lakhs. Imports of groundnut oil increased from Rs. 3 lakhs to Rs. 11 lakhs, and linseed oil from Rs. 11 lakhs to Rs. 24 lakhs. Considerable improvement was also noticed in the imports from Madras, the value rising from Rs. 2,68·15 lakhs to Rs. 2,84·09 lakhs. This advance was the result of increased business in raw cotton from Rs. 24 lakhs to Rs. 45 lakhs and of twist and yarn from Rs. 70 lakhs to Rs. 1,06 lakhs. Business in cocoanut oil, however, dropped from Rs. 50 lakhs to Rs. 22 lakhs. Sind recorded an expansion of trade from Rs. 14 lakhs to Rs. 62 lakhs due solely to the renewal of her supplies of wheat worth Rs. 46 lakhs, her markets being over-stocked on account of a drop in the prices in the home and Continental markets. Bihar and Orissa sent no raw jute, but her supplies of paddy and rice increased considerably.

Exports.

315. The trade of Calcutta with the Indian ports improved a little, the total value advancing from Rs. 14,32·54 lakhs (revised) to Rs. 15,07·28 lakhs. This was due to the expansion in the business of gunny bags, which rose from Rs. 3,38 lakhs to Rs. 4,52

lakhs, all the ports except Sind taking increased quantities. Gunny cloth advanced from Rs. 35 lakhs to Rs. 56 lakhs, Bombay taking the bulk of it. Exports of coal decreased from 1·81 million tons to 1·61 million tons in quantity, and from Rs. 2,30 lakhs to Rs. 1,85 lakhs in value. The shipments of coal to Bombay fell from 352,266 tons to 331,222 tons, to Sind from 142,565 tons to 132,220 tons, and to Burma from 790,110 tons to 584,190 tons. Madras was the only port to raise her demand from 437,575 tons to 456,414 tons. Other articles to record improved trade were rice to Bombay, betelnuts and chillies to Burma and tea to Bombay and Burma.

Marine Department.

Port of Calcutta.

316. The navigable channels remained fairly steady as regards depth, with the exception of the Eastern Gut and the Moyapur bars. The deterioration of the former towards the end of the year was particularly noticeable and drew some amount of public attention. The least depth was 13¼ ft. in March, in spite of the fact that dredging was maintained at all states of the tide. It was the governing bar for 31 days in the year. The Moyapur bar shoaled to a minimum depth of 11½ ft. in September, which was 1½ ft. worse than that of the preceding year and was the governing bar for 41 days in the year. Port and port approaches.

317. The total tonnage of ships entering the port and the total tonnage of goods handed over at the docks, wharves, jetties, etc., show a slight improvement over those of the previous year. The total number of vessels entering the port was 1,485 with a net tonnage of 4,818,831, being an increase of 3·8 per cent. over that of the previous year. The total tonnage of goods handled was 10,840,284, which is also 3·8 per cent. over that of the previous year. Trade.

318. Financially the year was, like the previous year, a satisfactory one. The total revenue of the year amounted to Rs. 341·83 lakhs which exceeded the receipts of the previous year by about Rs. 3 lakhs. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 321·72 lakhs yielding a surplus on the year's working of Rs. 20 lakhs. The whole of this surplus has been carried forward to the next financial year. It has been the practice in recent years to allocate the major portion of the surplus to the Revenue Reserve Fund. The first section of the King George's Dock having been completed and opened to traffic towards the end of the year 1928, the interest and sinking fund charges in connection with the dock loan have been debited to the revenues of the Trust as from the 1st January Revenue.

1929. The amount of these charges, together with the necessary provision for working the new dock berths, is expected considerably to exceed the additional income derived from the working of the new berths. It was not, therefore, possible to make any allocation to The Revenue Reserve Fund which at the end of the year stood at Rs. 152·77 lakhs.

Capital.

319. The year opened with a balance of Rs. 36·72 lakhs. A debenture loan of Rs. 150 lakhs was issued during the year. After meeting certain commitments the amount available for expenditure on new capital works was Rs. 178·72 lakhs, against which the actual expenditure was Rs. 158·69 lakhs.

King George's Dock.

320. The year saw the completion of the first section of the dock which consists of four import and export berths, a heavy lift berth and a River Companies' berth. The dock was formally opened by His Excellency the Viceroy on the 29th December 1928, and the first vessel, the P. & O. S.S. "Novara" was successfully placed at No. 4 berth on the 23rd February 1929.

The limits of the port were extended so as to include the area occupied by King George's Dock.

Howrah Bridge.

321. The year opened with a debit balance of Rs. 45,231. The income amounted to Rs. 3,80,164 and the ordinary expenditure to Rs. 3,96,456. A special expenditure of Rs. 62,228 was incurred on the provision of new shore spans. The year thus closed with a debit balance of Rs. 1,23,751.

The bridge was opened for the passage of vessels on 292 occasions and 5,229 vessels passed through.

Pilotage of the port.

322. The total number of vessels drawing over 21 feet piloted up and down the river was 481 inward and 950 outward. The total number of vessels neaped for want of sufficient depth in the navigable channels was 15.

At the end of the year there were 65 pilots on the list including 15 Leadsman Apprentices. Seven new Leadsman Apprentices were appointed during the year. Four Pilots retired.

Chittagong Port.

323. The administration of the port was transferred to the Government of India with effect from the 1st April 1928.

Shipping and Navigation.

324. Shipping and navigation were under the administration of the local Government as agents of the Government of India up to the end of the year 1928-29, but from the 1st April 1929 came under the direct administration of the Government of India.

CHAPTER IV-B.—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Buildings and Roads.

325. The revenue realised during the year amounted to 6·94 lakhs of which Rs. 5·53 lakhs were Provincial. The expenditure (including Communications) totalled Rs. 122·57 lakhs, including about Rs. 20·07 lakhs for "Establishment, tools and plant." Of this total Rs. 9·16 lakhs were for Central works, Rs. 13·76 lakhs for Provincial works (reserved) and Rs. 64·15 lakhs for Provincial works (transferred). Rs. 93,000 were expended on "Contribution works," Rs. 3·33 lakhs on "Grants-in-aid and Rs. 11·17 lakhs on "60—Civil works not charged to Revenue." Revenue and expenditure.

326. The following works were completed:—

Septic tank latrine and installation of two electric pumps in the compound of the Sulkea Salt Golah building; quarters and cookroom for menials and electric fittings in the quarters of the Stamp and Stationery Office, Calcutta; new Custom House, Howrah; improvements to the Post and Telegraph Office and construction of a Sub-Postmaster's quarters at Contai; construction of quarters for the Telephone Exchange staff at Asansol; construction of an Income-tax office and residence for the Assistant Commissioner of Income-tax and Income-tax Officer, Jalpaiguri; removal and reconstruction of European cemetery at Serajganj in Pabna district. Central buildings.

327. Rupees 48·70 lakhs were expended on buildings under "Transferred" departments and Rs. 4·63 lakhs under "Reserved" departments. Provincial buildings.

Education buildings accounted for Rs. 9·12 lakhs; buildings in connection with General Administration Rs. 14·61 lakhs; buildings relating to Administration of Justice, Police, Medical, Jails and other civil works Rs. 29·60 lakhs.

The most important building under construction is the Bengal Legislative Council Chamber. The work was administratively approved for Rs. 25,57,000 in 1927-28.

The Consulting Architect, Bengal, has submitted the following report regarding the more important projects prepared in his office:—

HOSPITALS.

Calcutta (Presidency Circle).

(1) *Medical College, Eden Hospital Extension.*—The building was commenced in September 1926; the second floor and roof were completed in the early part of this year. Various finishings and fittings remain to be completed. Several details were supplied for this building during the year. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 6,04,256.

(2) *Additions to Pathological and Physiological block.*—Building was commenced in August 1926 and completed in November 1928. The estimated cost was Rs. 99,189 and actual cost on completion was Rs. 81,450.

(3) *Campbell Hospital, Sealdah, Small-pox Ward.*—Sketch plans were prepared and supplied to Superintending Engineer, and from these an approximate estimate amounting to Rs. 1,15,292 was made by the Executive Engineer.

Barisal (Eastern Circle).

(4) *Hospital for Reserve Police Lines.*—Building was commenced in December 1927 and is now completed with the exception of a few fittings. Several details were supplied during the year. The estimated cost of the building was Rs. 68,090.

Darjeeling (Northern Circle).

(5) *Victoria Hospital.*—Sketch plans were prepared for an extension together with an approximate estimate amounting to Rs. 3,13,000 and submitted to the Chief Engineer.

EDUCATION.

Calcutta (Presidency Circle).

(6) *New Observatory building, etc., Presidency College.*—Building was commenced in December 1927 and completed in September 1928. The estimated cost of the building was Rs. 57,263 and the actual cost on completion was Rs. 58,983.

Serampore (Central Circle).

(7) *Government Weaving Institute.*—Building was commenced in February 1928 and has not yet been completed. The estimated cost is Rs. 1,12,955 and Rs. 69,091 was expended during the year.

Berhampore.

(8) *Medical School.*—Drawings were supplied for the conversion of buildings of the old Central Mental Hospital into a Medical School. The estimated cost of the conversion prepared by the Executive Engineer amounts to Rs. 74,194.

Jalpaiguri (Northern Circle).

(9) *Medical School.*—The building was commenced in December 1928, and complete working drawings supplied. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 2,70,000 or Rs. 2,99,230, including cost of acquiring land.

Bhola (Eastern Circle).

(10) *Government High School.*—The building was commenced in January 1928 and is now completed with the exception of minor details. Various details were supplied during the year. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 78,582.

Chittagong.

(11) *Medical School.*—Building was commenced in November 1928 and nearly all the necessary drawings have been supplied. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 1,68,575.

RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS.

Gobra (Presidency Circle).

(12) *Sisters' quarters, Albert Victor Leper Asylum.*—A sketch plan was prepared for this project and an approximate estimate based on this plan by the Superintending Engineer amounted to Rs. 25,000.

Calcutta.

(13) *Proposed servants' quarters for Government House at 5 and 6, Government Place.*—Sketch plans were prepared together with an approximate estimate amounting to Rs. 4,00,000 and forwarded to the Chief Engineer.

(14) *New servants' quarters, Government House compound.*—Complete drawings were supplied to the Superintendent, Governor's Estates. The work was completed in March 1929 at a total cost of Rs. 15,803.

Burdwan (Central Circle).

(15) *Medical School Hostel.*—The building was nearly completed during the year. The approximate estimate amounted to Rs. 1,69,146.

Chinsurah.

(16) *Deputy Inspector-General's residence.*—1/8″ scale drawings were made and supplied to the Superintending Engineer for obtaining administrative approval.

(17) *Settlement Officer's residence.*—1/8″ scale drawings were made and supplied to the Superintending Engineer for obtaining administrative approval.

Dacca (Eastern Circle).

(18) *Ahsanullah School of Engineering, Hostel and Superintendent's quarters.*—The buildings were commenced in September 1927. Various details were supplied during the year, and the main building was almost completed to the first floor level. The revised approximate estimate for the project up to date amounts to Rs. 3,14,823.

Sonarpur, Noakhali.

(19) *Residence for District Judge.*—Complete 1/8″ scale working drawings were prepared and supplied to Superintending Engineer for preparation of detailed estimate.

Darjeeling (Northern Circle).

(20) *Main gates to Government House.*—Complete drawings were supplied to Superintendent, Governor's Estates, and the work was completed in September 1928 at a cost of Rs. 1,227.

COURTS AND OFFICES.

Calcutta (Presidency Circle).

(21) *Sub-Judge's Court building, Alipore.*—The building was commenced in September 1927 and is now nearing completion. The estimated cost is Rs. 76,567 (structural portion only).

(22) *Offices for Administrator-General, Official Trustee and shops at 9, Government Place.*—Sketch plans and an approximate estimate amounting to Rs. 7,50,000 were prepared and forwarded to the Chief Engineer.

(23) *Offices for Registrar of Assurances, Land Acquisition Collector, Boiler Commission and Inspector of Factories.*—Sketch plans and an approximate estimate amounting to Rs. 3,35,000 were prepared and forwarded to the Chief Engineer.

(24) *Alipore new offices on Army Clothing Factory site.*—Sketch plans and an approximate estimate amounting to Rs. 6,58,000 were prepared and forwarded to the Chief Engineer.

(25) *New Civil Court building, Howrah.*—Sketch plans were prepared and forwarded to the Chief Engineer for obtaining administrative approval.

Serampore (Central Circle).

(26) *Treble Munsiffi.*—The building was commenced in July 1925 and completed during the current year. The estimated cost was Rs. 64,765 and actual cost on completion was Rs. 58,484.

Dacca (Eastern Circle).

(27) *New Civil Court building.*—Revised 1/8″ scale drawings were prepared and forwarded to the Superintending Engineer for detailed estimate. Administrative approval was given and an estimate amounting to Rs. 1,54,592 was sanctioned.

Pabna (Northern Circle).

(28) *Collector's Record-room.*—The building was commenced in June 1927 and is now nearing completion. The estimated cost is Rs. 44,400.

POLICE.

Calcutta (Presidency Circle).

(29) *Shampukur Section House.*—Complete working drawings were supplied for this building which was commenced in October 1928 at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,29,971.

(30) *Traffic Control Barracks, Porabazar.*—Revised 1/8″ scale working drawings were prepared and supplied to Superintending Engineer.

(31) *Married Sergeants' quarters, Chittaranjan Avenue.*—Further details were supplied for this building which was commenced in December 1927 and is still under construction. A revised estimate for this project amounts to Rs. 1,16,467.

(32) *Married quarters for Deputy Commissioners and Inspectors, etc., Lall Bazar.*—Further details were supplied for this building which was commenced in May 1927 and is still under construction. The sanctioned estimate for this building now amounts to Rs. 4,13,281.

(33) *Burra Bazar Section House.*—Complete working drawings were supplied for this building which was commenced in July 1928 at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,72,884.

(34) *Quarters for "A" Company, Calcutta Armed Police, Lower Chitpore Road.*—Sketch plans were prepared and forwarded to the Superintending Engineer for preparation of approximate estimate.

(35) *North Calcutta Traffic Police Barracks.*—Complete 1/8" scale plans were prepared for this project and forwarded to the Superintending Engineer for preparation of approximate estimate for obtaining administrative approval.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA BUILDINGS.

(36) *New Custom House, Calcutta.*—Two revised alternative schemes were prepared for this project and forwarded to the Finance Department of the Government of India.

(37) *Fireproof Spirit building, Indian Museum, Calcutta.*—Sketch plans were prepared and forwarded to the Director of the Zoological Survey for criticism.

(38) *Mathematical Instrument Office.*—1/8" scale working drawings were prepared for a small extension and forwarded to the Superintending Engineer.

(39) *New sales room for Map Issue Office, Calcutta.*—1/8″ scale plans were prepared and sent to the Superintending Engineer for preparation of approximate estimate.

The foregoing gives the bulk of the work for which actual drawings were made. In addition however a considerable amount of work was entailed in giving advice and criticism in connection with proposed new building work for which no actual drawings have as yet been prepared.

328. The total expenditure on Communications during the year under report was Rs. 32,29,267, of which a sum of Rs. 2,54,650 was spent by the Government of India on Central Communications. Communications.

The total length of metalled roads in the province rose from 3,463 to 3,481 miles and the length of unmetalled roads from 34,490 to 35,961 miles. These figures include 2,554 miles of metalled and 35,235 miles of unmetalled roads maintained by district and local funds, but exclude roads maintained by municipalities.

The following works were in progress during the year:—

(1) Improvements to the Barrackpore Trunk Road with 2″ tar and pitch macadam. The work was taken in hand in 1927, and was expected to be completed during the year.

(2) Improvements to the Rishi Road from Tista Bridge to Kalimpong. The work was nearing completion.

(3) The construction of a new unmetalled road from Alipore to Rajabhatkhawa in the Duars. The work was nearing completion.

(4) The strengthening of certain bridges on the Hilli-Balurghat Road. Work was started on two bridges out of the seven proposed to be strengthened.

Excluding the work of improving and metalling the last 2½ miles of the Jainti-Dhawla Road, which was completed last year, the construction of the Alipore-Rajabhatkhawa Road, referred to above, is the first of the road projects to be put in hand under the second part of Sir John Cumming's programme, which includes further construction of roads considered necessary for developing communications in the Duars.

The following works were completed during the year:—

(1) The widening and improving of the Grand Trunk Road from the 7th to the 19th mile, with the exception of two diversions.

(2) The widening and improving of the Ringkingpong Road (now called Ridge Road) at Kalimpong.

(3) The construction of a metalled road from Mainaguri to Dhupguri with a major bridge over the Jaldhaka river.

This bridge, 1,488 feet in length, inclusive of abutments, is the largest road bridge constructed up to date in the Duars and is of considerable importance, in that it affords an outlet, independent of the Bengal-Duars Railway, to a sub-district covering an area of 500 square miles and containing over 40 tea estates, several blocks of valuable reserved forests and a large expanse of khas land.

The completion of the bridge, which was opened to traffic by His Excellency the Governor of Bengal on the 28th February 1929, brings to a successful conclusion the construction of all the roads included in the first part of Sir John Cumming's programme for the improvement of communications in the Duars.

Special repairs to the roads in the Darjeeling Division were practically completed. Two wooden bridges in the Duars were replaced by permanent structures during the year, while work was in progress on two more.

Owing to the Akra-Matiabruz Road falling within the extended area of the Calcutta Corporation it was decided to transfer it to the Corporation for maintenance.

Military.

329. The installation of electric lights and fans in the Military Students' quarters attached to the Medical College Hospital, Calcutta, and the preparation of a landing ground for aeroplanes at Asansol were completed during the year under review. Work on the preparation of another landing ground for aeroplanes at Dacca was in progress.

Civil aviation.

330. The work of raising and draining the Dum Dum aerodrome, which was commenced in December 1927, made considerable progress during the year.

331. The Secretary of State was asked to sanction the creation of the posts of one Superintending Engineer and three Executive Engineers, with a view to reorganise the Government electrical work in the province. Electric Circle.

332. Formerly, six B. E. students of the Bengal Engineering College, Howrah, were allowed to appear at the practical examination held at Purulia in November every year. The number has been raised to eight. Practical Examination.

Railways.

333. With the exception of the following light railways, all the important lines of railway in this province are under the direct control of the Government of India. Administration.

	Gauge.	Length in miles.
1. Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway	2′ 0″	51·07
2. Bengal Provincial Railway (Tarakeswar to Tribeni) ..	2′ 6″	33·27
3. Howrah-Amta Light Railway	2′ 0″	43·87
4. Howrah-Sheakhala Light Railway	2′ 0″	19·75
5. Baraset-Basirhat Light Railway	2′ 6″	52·24
Total ..		200·20

334. In the last year's administration report the Jessore-Jhenidah Railway was shown under the administrative control of this Government. Though this line was constructed under the Indian Railways Act, IX of 1890, the Government of Bengal exercised certain control over it by reason of the guarantee given by the District Board of Jessore. The old Jessore-Jhenidah Railway Company however went into liquidation and the railway was purchased as a going concern by a new company, "The Jhenidah Railway Syndicate Limited." The Syndicate do not enjoy any guarantee from the District Board and the line is being worked under an agreement between the Secretary of State and the Syndicate. The partial control hitherto exercised by this Government over the line has thus been obliterated.

335. The following lines were opened to traffic during the year:—

Eastern Bengal Railway.

		Mileage.
1.	Pirganj-Ruhea Section of the Dinajpur-Ruhea Railway ..	23·75
2.	Abdulpur-Rampur Boalia Section of the Abdulpur-Nawabganj Railway	25·25
3.	Baruipur-Lakshmikantapur Railway	23·26

Assam-Bengal Railway.

4.	Netrokona-Thakurakona Section of the Netrokona-Mohanganj Railway	6·75

With these additions the total mileage of railways open to traffic in Bengal on 31st March 1929 was 3,328·09 miles.

Surveys.

336. The following surveys were sanctioned by the Railway Board during the year:—

(1) A detailed survey by the Bengal-Nagpur Railway for a broad gauge line from Maurigram station to a point near Bally station, a distance of about 8 miles.

(2) A final location survey by the Eastern Bengal Railway for a broad gauge line from Rajbari to Narayanganj, a distance of about 64 miles.

(3) A traffic survey by the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Administration for a broad gauge line from Chandrakona Road to Ghatal, a distance of about 25 miles.

(4) A preliminary survey by the Assam-Bengal Railway for a metre gauge line from Gauripur to Mankachar with a branch from Bongaon to Jamalpore, a distance of about 100 miles.

New construction.

337. The following lines were sanctioned for construction during the year:—

(1) A broad gauge railway from Contai Road station to Contai, a distance of about 34 miles. The work of actual construction was postponed under the orders of the Railway Board.

(2) A metre gauge railway from Sholashahar Junction to Dohazari, a distance of about 25 miles.

(3) A broad gauge railway from Rajbari to Narayanganj, a distance of about 64 miles.

Teesta-Kurigram Railway.

338. The Teesta-Kurigram Section of the Eastern Bengal Railway, a line 13·30 miles long, was converted from the 2′ 6″ gauge to metre gauge. The conversion removed the inconvenience of transhipment at Teesta.

Netrokona-Mohanganj Railway.

339. The new railway from Netrokona to Mohanganj, 17½ miles, is a prolongation of the Netrakona branch of the Mymensingh-Bhairab Bazar Railway. It is built, however, as an integral part of the Assam-Bengal Railway and not as a part of the Mymensingh-Bhairab Bazar Railway. It runs through a thickly populated jute producing country and will serve three important jute marts.

The first section from Netrokona to Thakurakona was opened to general traffic on the 15th January 1929.

Baruipur-Lakshmikantapur Railway.

340. The Baruipur-Lakshmikantapur Railway, a new branch of the Eastern Bengal Railway taking off from the Diamond Harbour line at Baruipur and working south to Lakshmikantapur, was opened to passenger traffic on the 14th December 1928.

The line is expected to tap a rich rice-growing area and to serve the travelling needs of large numbers of people residing in this part of the 24-Parganas district.

Dinajpur-Ruhea Railway.

341. The second and final section of the Dinajpur-Ruhea Railway of which the first section was opened to passenger traffic on the 15th February 1928, was opened to passenger traffic on the 8th May 1928. The newly opened section is 23·75 miles and the length of the whole line is 47·80 miles.

Kalimpong-Riyang Ropeway.

342. An order was published under section 7 of the Bengal Aerial Ropeways Act, 1923, authorising the construction by Messrs. Gillanders, Arbuthnot and Company of Calcutta of an aerial ropeway for the carriage of goods from Riyang to Kalimpong in the district of Darjeeling.

IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT.

Canals (Irrigation and Navigation).

[Administration Report of the Irrigation Department for the year 1928-29.]

Constitution of the department.

343. There were no changes of any importance in the constitution of the department.

Capital and Revenue Accounts.

344. The transactions of the department for the year are shown in the following statement, in so far as they relate to irrigation and navigation works:—

Capital Account.

Heads.	Amount of construction estimate.	Expenditure during 1928-29.	Expenditure to end of 1928-29.	Balance for expenditure from 1st April 1929.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
WORKS FOR WHICH CAPITAL AND REVENUE ACCOUNTS ARE KEPT.				
A—Irrigation Works.				
(1) Productive—				
Direct	80,51,475	15,66,145	23,88,282	56,63,193
Indirect	2,54,102	25,092	31,453	2,22,649
Total	83,05,577	15,91,237	24,19,735	58,85,842
(2) Unproductive—				
Direct	83,06,728	— 2,000	83,06,728	....
Indirect	1,85,325	....	1,85,325	....
Total	84,92,053	— 2,000	84,92,053	....
B—Navigation Works.				
(1) Productive—				
Direct	2,49,49,000	—10,298	13,91,128	2,35,57,872
Indirect	5,26,000	28	46,229	4,79,771
Total	2,54,75,000	—10,270	14,37,357	2,40,37,643
(2) Unproductive—				
Direct	3,27,02,125	2,10,827	3,17,06,252	9,95,873
Indirect	3,71,395	2,386	5,68,223	—1,96,828
Total	3,30,73,520	2,13,213	3,22,74,475	7,99,045
Total works for which Capital and Revenue Accounts are kept ..	17,92,180	4,46,23,620	4,45,52,312	3,07,22,530

Revenue Account.

Heads.	Receipts.	Working expenses.			Net Revenue.
		Direct.	Indirect.	Total.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
WORKS FOR WHICH BOTH CAPITAL AND REVENUE ACCOUNTS ARE KEPT.					
A—Irrigation Works.					
Unproductive ..	2,48,334	1,94,222	707	1,94,929	53,405
B—Navigation.					
Unproductive ..	9,28,472	13,67,345	10,411	13,77,756	—4,49,284
Total ..	11,76,806	15,61,567	11,118	15,72,685	—3,95,879

345. The following statement shows the areas irrigated during the year as compared with the average of the triennium ending March 1928:— Irrigation.

	Midnapore Canal.			Eden Canal.		
	Kharif (including hot weather).	Rabi.	Total.	Kharif (including hot weather).	Rabi.	Total.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Average of the triennium ending March 1928 ..	75,505	725	76,230	22,500	393	22,893
For 1928-29	64,834	8	64,842	20,988	365	21,353

The following statement shows the lengths of canals and distributaries which were in operation during the year:—

	Midnapore Canal.	Eden Canal.
	Miles.	Miles.
Main Canal Irrigation	53·00	27·5
Branch Canals	16·75	..
Distributaries including minor and village channels	284·97	17·6
Navigation channels	69·75	..

346. The following statement shows the traffic on the navigable canals during 1928-29 as compared with the average of the triennium ending March 1928:—

		Midnapore Canal.		Hijili Tidal Canal.		Calcutta and Eastern Canal.	
		Average of triennium ending March 1928.	For the year 1928-29.	Average of triennium ending March 1928.	For the year 1928-29.	Average of triennium ending March 1928.	For the year 1928-29.
Length of open canals	Miles	69½	69½	49½	49½	834	834
Receipts	Rs.	53,583	37,995	70,540	64,166	4,30,762	4,49,762
Tonnage of boats by canal measurement	Tons	325,478	220,458	174,789	153,208	1,116,699	1,033,028
Estimated weight of cargo	Tons	29,059	25,650	48,754	40,791	701,016	759,938
Estimated value of goods	Rs.	50,71,512	38,56,182	63,82,566	62,97,150	6,68,36,120	6,16,80,960
Estimated value of rafts	Rs.	11,103	8,077	2,434	915	10,49,338	39,48,850

		Sundarbans Steamer Route.		Madaripore Bil Route.		Orissa Coast Canal.		Nadia Rivers.	
		Average of triennium ending March 1928.	For the year 1928-29.	Average of triennium ending March 1928.	For the year 1928-29.	Average of triennium ending March 1928.	For the year 1928-29.	Average of triennium ending March 1928.	For the year 1928-29.
Length of open canals	Miles	350	350	38	38	54½	54½	482½	478½
Receipts	Rs.	59,552	70,170	3,41,443	3,06,968	27,849	25,312		
Tonnage of boats by canal measurement	Tons	....	....	1,507,379	781,498	108,205	108,346		
Estimated weight of cargo	Tons	....	....	1,489,190	1,181,467	35,948	30,878	Thrown open to free navigation from the 1st September 1923.	
Estimated value of goods	Rs.	....	....	20,63,57,996	15,61,19,937	38,07,219	42,83,556		
Estimated value of rafts	Rs.	....	....	9,064	16,726	1,072	1,505		

Embankment and Drainage Works.

347. The expenditure on embankments and drainage works, including charges for establishment and tools and plant, was Rs. 12,56,603 against Rs. 13,24,206 in the previous year. Expenditure.

348. The total length of embankments of all classes maintained by the department during the year was about 1,298½ miles as in the preceding year. Lengths of embankments.

349. The Rajapore, Burrojolla, Howrah and Dancooni drainage works in the district of Howrah were maintained at a cost of Rs. 19,650 against Rs. 18,350 in the previous year. Works carried out under (*a*) Bengal Drainage Act, VI of 1880.

The maintenance and repairs of the works in connection with the drainage of Berhampore and the flushing of the Bistupur Bhil cost Rs. 1,625 against Rs. 1,559.

350. The Magrahat Drainage Scheme was maintained at a cost of Rs. 30,245 against Rs. 33,071 of the previous year. (*b*) Bengal Sanitary Drainage Act, VIII of 1895.

351. The Churrial Drainage Works were maintained at a cost of Rs. 1,496 against Rs. 1,700 of the previous year. (*c*) Bengal Embankment Act, II of 1882.

The work of the year is briefly described in the following summary which is divided for convenience into circles of superintendence.

South-western Circle.

Major Irrigation Works (Unproductive).

Midnapore Canal.

352. No capital expenditure was incurred on the canal during the year. Capital outlay.

The total capital outlay (direct) to the end of the year was Rs. 83,06,728.

353. The rainfall at Midnapore was 78·08 inches compared with 53·01 inches in the preceding year. Rainfall.

354. The area irrigated from the canal was 64,842 acres against 78,960 in 1927-28. The cash realisation on account of water rates was Rs. 1,82,163, of which Rs. 2,134 were remitted against Rs. 2,10,754 realised and Rs. 5,151 remitted in the preceding year. The total demand for water rates including arrears Irrigation.

was Rs. 1,90,092 against Rs. 2,22,830. The decrease in the demand is due to the decrease in the leased area, due to copious rainfall.

Navigation.

355. The navigation receipts amounted to Rs. 37,995 against Rs. 50,978 in 1927-28. The falling off in receipts was due to the closure of the canal from Mohanpur to Luchmapur for a fortnight and from Uluberia to Bansberia for 3 months for the purpose of silt clearance.

Financial results.

356. The gross revenue and working expenses amounted to Rs. 2,48,334 and Rs. 1,94,929 against Rs. 2,93,161 and Rs. 2,02,245, respectively, in the previous year. The net revenue of the year was Rs. 53,405 against Rs. 90,916 in the preceding year.

Minor Irrigation Works.

Eden Canal.

357. The area irrigated from the canal during the year was 21,353 acres as compared with 23,283 and 21,560 acres in the two preceding years. The gross revenue was Rs. 44,091 against Rs. 50,864, and the working expenses Rs. 44,284 against Rs. 87,217 in the previous year.

Amjor Weir.

358. The weir, which had been reconstructed in the previous year, was maintained at a cost of Rs. 1,680. The irrigable area is 700 acres of which 600 acres were fully irrigated.

Salbandh Weir.

359. This weir in the Bankura district was constructed on behalf of the Salbandh Irrigation Society, Bankura, but the Society being unwilling to take over the weir, Government have decided to take it over and maintain it under the Bengal Irrigation Act III of, 1876. The total amount of the sanctioned estimate, including the expenditure incurred by the Society, is Rs. 64,248. The expenditure on works during the year amounted to Rs. 50,556. The irrigable area is about 1,700 acres.

Other Irrigation Schemes in Western Bengal.

The Damodar Canal Scheme.

360. This is a major Irrigation Scheme designed to irrigate about 200,000 acres, mostly paddy, in the Burdwan and Hooghly districts. Construction, which began in 1926-27, was in progress during the year under review. A sum of Rs. 13,92,235 was spent on the construction of head works, main canal and branches and on the purchase of special tools and plant. The total expenditure

to the end of the year was Rs. 21,99,823; the estimated cost of the whole scheme is Rs. 78,14,981. It is hoped that the canal will be partially opened in 1931.

The work in connection with the construction of the Bakreswar Canal in the Birbhum district, which was commenced in 1927, was continued The head weir and the excavation of the main canal in the 3rd, 4th and 6th to 11th miles were practically completed during the year. Expenditure amounted to Rs. 1,73, 910. The total expenditure to the end of the year was Rs. 1,88,459; the estimated cost of the whole scheme is Rs. 4,90,596.

The Kashinala Irrigation Scheme in the district of Birbhum was completed at a total cost of Rs. 9,624 against the estimated cost of Rs. 9,605 for works only. The work was carried out under the provisions of the Bengal Agricultural and Sanitary Improvement Act VI of 1920. The whole cost was advanced by Government. The sluice was in operation and the area it was designed to serve was fully irrigated.

The Satkahonia Irrigation Scheme in the Burdwan District and the Berai Irrigation Scheme in the Bankura district could not be taken up for want of funds.

Major Navigation Works (Unproductive).

361. There was no outlay during the year chargeable to capital account of the canal, the total direct capital outlay on the canal remaining at Rs. 25,50,805. The gross revenue and working expenses amounted to Rs. 67,498 and Rs. 47,536, respectively, as against Rs. 47,911 and Rs. 50,287 in the preceding year. The increase in revenue is due to the good crops in the locality resulting in increased exports of paddy, rice and straw and imports of miscellaneous goods. The improvement would have been much greater but for the silted condition of the canal and the closure of Range No. II from the 1st February to the 22nd May for clearance. Hijli Tidal Canal.

Minor Navigation Works.

362. The length of the canal within the province of Bengal is 54½ miles. It is used for navigation only. The receipts and working expenses were Rs. 26,838 and Rs. 26,528, respectively, as against Rs. 20,670 and Rs. 36,799 in the previous year. The increase in receipts was due to good crops and the absence of flooding. Orissa Coast Canal.

Gaighatta and Buxi Khal.

363. The khal is a connecting link of the rivers Rupnarain and Damodar and is about 7½ miles in length. The khal has been leased out at a rental of Rs. 4,110 on condition that the lessees maintain it in good order.

Nadia rivers.

364. The approximate length of the channels comprising the Nadia rivers is 478½ miles. The rivers have been thrown open to free navigation from 1st September 1923. The maintenance charges during the year amounted to Rs. 59,670.

Bhagirathi.

365. The river Bhagirathi, including the Farracca channel below Kaliganj, is 147 miles in length from its offtake from the Ganges to its junction with the Jalangi at Nadia. The Farracca channel from Kaliganj to Biswanathpur remained open for country boat traffic up to the end of October 1928. Boat traffic above Jiaganj being comparatively small, no bandalling was done in the upper Bhagirathi except at the Kaliganj entrance. Local country craft traffic was however maintained up to the end of December 1928. In the middle and lower Bhagirathi shoals were trained by means of bandals, and the local country boat traffic between Berhampore and Azimganj and between Katwa and Nabadwip was maintained throughout the year. A shoal in the river Hooghly to the south of the Nabadwip town was also trained and a minimum depth of 4 feet of water was maintained for steamer service from Calcutta to Swarupganj.

Bhairab-Jalangi.

366. With the opening of the new entrance at Akriganj the upper reach of the Bhairab between Lalgolaghat and Akriganj showed appreciable signs of deterioration. In the lower reach from the new Akriganj entrance to Muktearpore the discharge from the Ganges continued throughout the year. No bandalling work was done. Country boat traffic was maintained throughout the year from Nadia to the Ganges.

Mathabhanga.

367. The Mathabhanga river takes off from the Ganges at Dayarampur and falls into the Hooghly at Chakdah. There was no change in the course of the river during the year.

Ganges river from Rajmahal to Goalundo.

368. Conservancy operations were carried out through the agency of the steamer companies as in the previous year. The total expenditure incurred was Rs. 22,471 against Rs. 24,065 in the previous year. The route was kept navigable for steamers.

Discharge observations.

369. Observations were taken at four stations, viz., two on the Bhagirathi, one on the Hooghly and one on the Mathabhanga throughout the year. The discharges of the tributaries of the Hooghly and Bhagirathi for the flood season only were also observed. The total expenditure incurred on these observations amounted to Rs. 4,709 against Rs. 4,643 in the previous year.

370. The Gorai takes off from the Ganges near Kushtia about 12 miles below the Hardinge Bridge. The river was surveyed as usual but no change was observed except erosion of the Ganges at the entrance. Gorai river.

371. Works in connection with the flushing of the Gobra Nala in the Murshidabad district and of the Bhairab river in the Meherpore subdivision of the Nadia district were practically completed during the year. The total expenditure on the two works up to 31st March 1929 was Rs. 2,84,040 and Rs. 1,38,257, respectively, against the sanctioned estimates of Rs. 2,97,079 and Rs. 1,51,358. The cost of the two schemes has been borne entirely by Government. Enquiries were also in progress in regard to the possibility of dealing with other rivers in the same manner, especially in the Jessore district. The Amirabad Drainage Project in the Contai subdivision of the Midnapore district was completed during the year. The total expenditure up to 31st March 1929 was Rs. 1,62,084 against the sanctioned estimate of Rs. 1,58,648. Anti-malarial and drainage works.

In connection with the Soadighi-Gangakhali Project in the Midnapore district, the procedure under the Bengal Agricultural and Sanitary Improvement Act VI of 1920 was completed. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 8,89,042 out of which Government have agreed to contribute Rs. 4,47,206 and to advance the balance as a loan.

372. Surveys and investigations were carried out in the Damodar Division in connection with the Malancha, Saraswati, Satkahonia and Bhaluka Irrigation Schemes, the proposed construction of a distributary from Chautpore to Joteram and the irrigation project from a sluice on the Ajoy right embankment. Discharge observations were taken of streams in the Bankura, Birbhum and Midnapore districts. Surveys were also carried out in connection with a great many irrigation schemes such as the Darkeswar, Subhankar-Danra, Dolong, Thakurpura, More-Dowki, Kutrangi, Chilki Khal, Bhalukhali, Amdole, Bangsabati and Bantia Irrigation Schemes. Surveys and investigations.

In the northern districts of the presidency, investigations were continued in connection with the North Bengal Floods, Harish Chandrapur Flood Scheme, Hogla-Damash Scheme, Tangoon Valley Scheme, Narode River Scheme, Tulsi-Ganga-Daura Scheme and Ganga Bil Scheme. The hydraulic conditions of the bils fed by the Kinoo Sarkar's jolla and the Chiknai river were also observed.

River floods and breaches.

373. The rainfall during the year was a good deal above the average and there were several moderate floods on the rivers Damodar, Ajoy, Selye, Cossye, Darkeswar and Rupnarain during the year. None of these floods was of long duration and consequently there was little damage to crops in the inundated areas. A breach, however, occurred at Dokanda below Panskura in the 2nd mile of embankment No. 16, Hoodah No. 5, which destroyed the crops over an area of about half a square mile close to the breach.

Southern Circle.

Calcutta and Eastern Canals.

374. There was no expenditure on original works. Receipts on capital account amounted to Rs. 71,308. The navigation receipts from the canals amounted to Rs. 4,49,762 against Rs. 4,37,846 in the previous year. The gross receipts and working expenses amounted to Rs. 4,80,248 and Rs. 5,52,365, respectively, against Rs. 4,63,254 and Rs. 5,81,618 in the previous year.

The total expenditure under extensions and improvements was Rs. 1,98,629. The following were the most important items on which expenditure was incurred:—

	Rs.
Reconstruction of the Garia Bridge	7,826
Reconstruction of the Manicktola Bridge	98,053
Reconstruction of the Belliaghatta Bridge	74,581
Construction of a temporary foot-bridge at Alipore	7,030

The Garia bridge was completed during the year. The Manicktola and the Belliaghatta bridges, which are being built through the agency of the Calcutta Improvement Trust, were under construction. The collapse of the Alipore Bridge over the Tolly's Nala necessitated the construction of a temporary foot-bridge.

Owing to the silting up of the central lake channel the Dhappa lock was closed to boat traffic from the 15th February 1928.

Sundarbans Steamer Route.

375. Receipts on capital account amounted to Rs. 41,839. The revenue receipts and working expenses amounted to Rs. 70,859 and Rs. 2,45,754, respectively, as against Rs. 62,258 and Rs. 1,76,725 in the previous year. The heavy working expenses were on account of thorough repairs to dredgers "Foyers" and "Alexandra" attached to this route and of dredging the Doagra Channel.

376. The expenditure debitable to the capital account of the route was Rs. 3,22,520, of which Rs. 2,38,398 represent the outlay on works in connection with the construction of locks and sluices in the Madaripur Bil Route and the Lower Kumar river and a flood embankment from Jalirpar to Khalia. The total direct capital outlay to the end of the year amounted to Rs. 78,52,279 against the sanctioned estimate of Rs. 75,57,056. The receipts and working expenses were Rs. 3,09,867 and Rs. 4,37,057, respectively, as against Rs. 2,74,336 and Rs. 7,40,857 in the previous year. Madaripur Bil Route.

377. Bandalling was carried out as usual to train the shoals in the Dhalleswari river with a view to maintaining a navigable depth of water during the low water season and to supply good drinking water to the city of Dacca. Fifteen shoals were dealt with. The steamer service was maintained as far as Lalitganj up to the end of November 1928. The expenditure during the year on the work was Rs. 21,425. No bandalling work was done in the river Buriganga. River training.

378. Dredging of shoals was done in the lower Kumar and Attarabanka rivers. Dredgers were also engaged on behalf of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway at the Kola Bridge and for the Commissioners for the Port of Calcutta in King George's Docks. Dredging.

379. The construction of a three-vented sluice at Dhutkhali was nearly completed during the year. A sum of Rs. 35,255 was spent against the estimated cost of Rs. 36,831. Agricultural Work.

380. Surveys and investigations in connection with the following schemes were undertaken and the amount noted against each was spent during the year:— Surveys and Investigations.

	Rs.
Drainage of the Datbhanga and other bils in the district of 24-Parganas	904
Flushing of Pabla bils in the district of Khulna	50
Improvement of the Satkhira Khal in the district of Khulna ..	149
Drainage of the Bhutair Bil in the district of Khulna	2,158
Improvement of the Chandana river in the district of Faridpur ..	330
Drainage of the Sonaichari and other silted up khals in the district of Khulna	200
Drainage of the Kajulia Bil	378
Improvement of waterways in the Manickganj sub-division of the Dacca district	599

381. The rainfall was heavy, but due to efficient drainage crops were not damaged. There were no floods worth mentioning in this circle. River floods and breaches.

CHAPTER V.—REVENUE AND FINANCE.

A.—Imperial Revenue and Finance.

382. The total revenue from central heads amounted to Rs. 6,52,59,000 for the year under review against Rs. 5,25,78,000 of the previous year. The details under the major heads are shown in the statement below:—

Statement of Imperial Revenue and Finance—Receipts.

Major heads.	Actuals, 1927-28.	Actuals, 1928-29.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
II.—Taxes on Income	4,87,82,073	6,14,22,247	1,26,40,174	....
III.—Salt	2,51,232	1,88,023	....	63,209
X.—Tributes from Indian States ..	67,701	67,701	....	....
XVI.—Interest ..	9,88,372	10,55,699	67,327	....
XX.—Ports and Pilotage	18,42,092	20,41,253	1,99,161	....
XXVI.—Miscellaneous Departments ..	86,496	96,563	10,067	....
XXVII.—Currency ..	13,687	14,838	1,151	....
XXX.—Civil Works ..	3,26,116	1,41,156	....	1,84,960
XXXIII.—Receipts in aid of Superannuation ..	2,04,118	2,06,214	2,096	....
XXXV.—Miscellaneous ..	15,786	25,369	9,583	....
Total ..	5,25,77,673	6,52,59,063	1,29,29,559	2,48,169

The main fluctuations are explained below:—

Taxes on Income.—The increase is attributed to improved conditions of the jute and grain trades.

Interest.—The increase is attributable mainly to the adjustment of interest on the loan to the Chittagong Port Fund as Central from 1928-29 instead of Provincial.

Ports and Pilotage.—The increase is mainly attributable to the enhanced scale of pilotage dues.

Civil Works.—The decrease when compared with the actuals of the previous year is due to the fact that the actuals of 1927-28 included large recoveries of arrear rent in respect of Central Government buildings occupied by Provincial Government offices.

Central Expenditure.

The total central expenditure for the year amounted to Rs. 1,09,31,000 against Rs. 1,12,14,000 of the previous year, as shown in the detailed statement below:—

Major heads.	Actuals, 1927-28.	Actuals, 1928-29.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
2.—Taxes on Income ..	9,94,270	10,48,383	54,113	....
3.—Salt	2,24,435	2,24,285	....	150
19.—Interest on ordinary debt	15,73,434	16,69,003	95,569	....
20.—Interest on other obligations	20,26,164	18,71,343	....	1,54,821
22.—General Administration C.—Secretariat and Headquarters establishment	44,524	42,682	....	1,842
23.—Audit	7,92,005	8,48,689	56,684	....
24.—Administration of Justice	53,009	39,388	....	13,621
26.—Police	76,724	83,483	6,759	....
27.—Ports and Pilotage ..	16,86,465	15,39,613	....	1,46,852
28.—Ecclesiastical	1,71,485	1,81,986	10,501	....
29.—Political	53,030	47,315	....	5,715
30.—Scientific Departments ..	7,826	7,455	....	371
33.—Public Health ..	70,710	56,755	....	13,955
37.—Miscellaneous Departments	74,904	63,585	....	11,319
41.—Civil Works	11,58,371	11,09,561	....	48,810
44.—Territorial and Political Pensions	6,32,923	6,24,267	....	8,656
45.—Superannuation Allowances and pensions ..	13,84,542	14,62,912	78,370	....
46.—Stationery and Printing ..	4,708	4,179	....	529
47.—Miscellaneous	25,377	5,858	....	19,519
51A.—Miscellaneous adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments	1,59,295	....	....	1,59,295
Total ..	1,12,14,201	1,09,30,742	3,01,996	5,85,455

The principal variations are explained as follows:—

Interest on ordinary debt.—The increase is due to payment of larger amounts of interest falling due on several loans and bonds and also premium on discharged bonds of 1928.

Interest on other obligations.—The decrease is due to smaller payments on account of interest on Provincial balances and would have been greater but for larger payments for interest on the General Provident Fund.

Audit.—The increase is mainly attributable to increase in the strength of the staff.

Ports and Pilotage.—The apparent decrease is due to the separate adjustment of overseas pay as English expenditure on the introduction of a time-scale of pay for pilots.

Civil Works.—Smaller expenditure on minor original works accounts for the decrease under this head.

Miscellaneous adjustments between Central and Provincial Governments.—The actuals for 1927-28 included the adjustment of the Provincial Government's share of the cost of non-postal stamps in stock on 1st April 1921 at the Calcutta Depôt.

Inland Bonded Warehouses Act.

The powers and duties of the Chief Customs Authority under the Inland Bonded Warehouses Act were retransferred during the year 1928 to the Central Board of Revenue and the functions of the Local Government under the original Act ceased.

Salt.

[Salt Administration Report, 1928-29.]

Salt credit system.

383. The number of salt dealers who availed themselves of the credit system of payment of duty on salt dropped from 52 to 49. The amount of duty outstanding for adjustment at the end of the year was Rs. 71,78,886 as against Rs. 69,06,145 at the close of the previous year.

Imports.

384. The total quantity of salt imported into Bengal was 1,50,37,366 maunds as compared with 1,45,24,776 maunds in the previous year, an increase of 3·53 per cent. The import into Calcutta and Chittagong were 1,32,01,226 and 18,36,140 maunds, respectively, representing 87·78 and 12·22 per cent. of the total quantity imported against 88·61 and 11·39 in the previous year.

Consumption and prices.

385. The total quantity of salt which passed into consumption from Calcutta and Chittagong during the year was 1,41,99,123 maunds against 1,38,84,257 maunds in the previous year. The average wholesale price per maund inclusive of duty was three annas four pies less than in the previous year.

The average wholesale price of Liverpool salt per 100 maunds in Calcutta was Rs. 97 against Rs. 119 in the previous year, while that of Port Said salt in Chittagong was Rs. 102 against Rs. 124.

Income-tax.

386. During the year 1928-29 income-tax work in all the districts in the Presidency was done by officers of the special Income-tax Department, the executive officers of this Government having nothing to do with income-tax administration in any district.

The trade conditions in general of the year 1927-28, on the income of which the assessments for the year 1928-29 were made, were distinctly better than those of the year 1926-27. The jute industry, which is the most important industry in Bengal and which fared very badly in the year 1926-27, did much better. Tea had another prosperous season. Shellac, hides and skins, grain and pulses showed a considerable improvement. The year was a bad one for coal but a good one for banking.

The table below shows the figures of assessed income in 1928-29 as compared with those of the previous years:—

	Rs.
Standard figure, *i.e.*, assessed income in 1920-21 as modified up to the 31st March, 1929 ..	62,39,79,703
Assessed income—	
In 1921-22	(Not available.)
In 1922-23	47,53,18,672
In 1923-24	49,21,45,843
In 1924-25	46,65,74,333
In 1925-26	50,63,56,689
In 1926-27	49,40,92,344
In 1927-28	45,84,67,020
In 1928-29	53,82,19,707

As in previous years, Bengal did not benefit by Devolution Rule 15.

In 1928-29, the collection of income-tax was Rs. 3,40,25,308 and of super-tax Rs. 2,48,65,604 as compared with Rs. 2,72,85,835 and Rs. 1,91,23,979, respectively, in 1927-28. Other statistics will be found in the returns submitted by the Commissioner of Income-tax, Bengal, to the Central Board of Revenue.

B.—Revenue and Finance other than Central—Provincial Finance.

Statement of Provincial Receipts—Actuals.

387. The total Provincial revenue during the year under review amounted to Rs. 10,95,62,000 against Rs. 10,81,30,000 collected in the previous year, as shown in the detailed statement below:—

Receipts.

Major heads.	Actuals, 1927-28.	Actuals, 1928-29.
V.—Land Revenue	3,15,12,155	3,26,76,615
VI.—Excise	2,24,30,653	2,24,90,968
VII.—Stamps	3,46,81,084	3,54,87,680
VIII.—Forest	33,49,479	31,18,357
IX.—Registration	40,17,184	39,94,240
IXA.—Scheduled Taxes	19,46,297	16,98,643
XII.—Subsidised Companies	2,45,452	1,02,413
XIII.—Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works for which capital accounts are kept ..	— 6,96,579	— 4,45,543
XIV.—Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works for which no capital accounts are kept ..	2,34,981	2,54,982
XVI.—Interest	6,28,738	6,23,824
XVII.—Administration of Justice ..	18,38,988	17,98,455
XVIII.—Jails and Convict Settlements ..	9,48,503	10,34,339
XIX.—Police	6,11,185	10,38,183
XX.—Ports and Pilotage	84,472	60,218
XXI.—Education	13,58,159	14,14,819
XXII.—Medical	8,50,656	8,83,158
XXIII.—Public Health	1,18,926	1,75,171
XXIV.—Agriculture	4,86,371	5,80,193
XXV.—Industries	5,68,699	7,15,522
XXVI.—Miscellaneous Departments ..	20,205	27,333
XXX.—Civil Works	6,60,590	5,53,745
XXXII.—Transfer from Famine Relief Fund ..	....	89,000
XXXIII.—Receipts in aid of Superannuation ..	7,29,830	2,15,840
XXXIV.—Stationery and Printing	1,54,120	1,55,903
XXXV.—Miscellaneous	9,49,637	7,68,545
XXXIXA.—Miscellaneous Adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments	1,59,295	....
XL.—Extraordinary Receipts	2,40,625	48,938
Total ..	10,81,29,705	10,95,61,541
Famine Relief Fund	48,000	48,000
Depreciation Fund for Government Presses ..	1,08,000	1,90,000
Advances from the Provincial Loan Fund ..	24,20,000	32,25,000
Loans and advances by the Bengal Government	8,59,000	26,88,000
Suspense Account	....	9,00,000
Total ..	11,15,64,705	11,66,12,541

The principal variations in Provincial Receipts for 1928-29, as compared with those of 1927-28, are explained below:—

Land Revenue.—Larger "Recoveries on account of Survey and Settlement charges" and increased revenue under "Miscellaneous Receipts," and adjustment of recoveries on account of Land Acquisition, Partition and Certificate establishments as receipts under this head, instead of being taken in reduction of expenditure as hitherto, account for the increase under this major head.

Stamps.—Improvement in trade conditions resulted in the growth of revenue under this head both under Judicial and Non-Judicial Stamps.

Forests.—The fall in revenue was due to smaller demands for timber.

Scheduled Taxes.—Smaller realizations from betting tax led to the decrease under this head.

Subsidized Companies.—The decrease compared with the previous year is due to the fact that the actuals of 1927-28 represented the credits on account of the Government share of profits from the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway for two years.

Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works for which capital accounts are kept.—The increase is mainly due to larger navigation receipts in the Madaripur Bhil Route and certain other canals coupled with smaller expenditure in their working expenses, which are taken in reduction of receipts under this head.

Jails.—Larger sale of jail-manufactured articles accounts for the growth of revenue.

Police.—The marked rise is due mainly to a change in classification under which the recoveries from the Port Commissioners, Calcutta, on account of Port Police, were credited as receipts under this head instead of being taken in reduction of expenditure as in previous years. Larger receipts under the Indian Motor Vehicles Act also helped towards the increase under this head.

Public Health.—The apparent increase is really due to a change in classification in respect of adjustment of recoveries from public

bodies for services rendered by the Public Health Department. The recoveries being credited as receipts instead of being taken in reduction of expenditure.

Agriculture.—Larger receipts on account of experimental cultivation, and co-operative credit fees and increased contributions by local bodies towards the pay of Veterinary assistants mainly account for the increase under this head.

Industries.—Increased sales of sulphate of quinine and larger recoveries from the Central Government on account of extraction of quinine from Java bark supplied by them chiefly account for the increased revenue.

Civil Works.—The decrease is mainly due to smaller credits on account of special and miscellaneous receipts, counterbalanced to some extent by smaller expenditure under " Refunds."

Transfer from Famine Relief Fund.—The absence of any transfer in 1927-28 explains the variation.

Receipts in aid of superannuation.—The decrease is more apparent than real as owing to a change in classification, recoveries from other Governments on account of commuted value of pensions originally credited under this head, were taken in reduction of the charge under the head "60-B.—Commuted value of pensions not charged to revenue."

Miscellaneous.—The decrease is due mainly to smaller realizations from unclaimed deposits, partly counterbalanced by the adjustment of certain recoveries from the District Boards credited under this head instead of being taken in reduction of expenditure in the accounts under " General Administration " as before.

Miscellaneous adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments.—The receipts for 1927-28 represented the Provincial Government's share of the cost of non-postal stamps in stock on 1st April 1921 at the Calcutta Depôt.

Extraordinary Receipts.—The absence of any credits on account of the sale of Government land situated in Porabazar, Calcutta, explains the fall in revenue under this head.

Statement of Provincial Expenditure—Actuals.

388. The charges on account of provincial services for the year 1928-29 amounted to Rs. 11,15,20,000 against Rs. 10,81,00,000 of the previous year under the several major heads as shown in the statement below:—

Expenditure.

Major heads.	Actuals, 1927-28.	Actuals, 1928-29.
	Rs.	Rs.
5.—Land Revenue	38,44,722	46,71,463
6.—Excise	23,87,312	22,93,160
7.—Stamps	8,93,029	8,85,143
8.—Forest	14,40,769	15,77,941
8A.—Forest Capital outlay charged to Revenue ..	2,61,686	1,04,252
9.—Registration	20,70,395	20,24,754
9A.—Scheduled Taxes	15,000	15,000
14.—Interest on works for which capital accounts are kept	17,75,617	18,54,693
15.—Other Revenue expenditure financed from ordinary Revenue	15,83,371	15,59,458
16.—Construction of Irrigation, etc., works financed from ordinary revenue	1,58,429	2,07,625
19.—Interest on ordinary revenue	—7,17,028	—7,93,649
20.—Interest on other obligations	....	....
22.—General Administration	1,17,47,612	1,20,52,832
24.—Administration of Justice	1,08,48,090	1,06,46,003
25.—Jails and Convict Settlements	33,99,781	32,75,460
26.—Police	1,85,35,445	1,95,32,980
27.—Ports and Pilotage	7,37,005	5,95,925
30.—Scientific Department	26,970	26,560
31.—Education.	1,37,87,543	1,40,27,048
32.—Medical	53,28,099	53,95,860
33.—Public Health	29,88,139	33,48,283
34.—Agriculture	22,02,068	25,14,092
35.—Industries	11,45,286	12,07,743
37.—Miscellaneous Departments	2,37,580	2,03,163
41.—Civil Works	1,01,06,743	97,31,490
43.—Famine Relief and Insurance	80,431	3,97,085
45.—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions ..	64,94,623	44,59,816
45A.—Commutation of pensions financed from Ordinary Revenue	9,03,231	8,71,769
46.—Stationery and Printing	19,76,574	20,30,576
47.—Miscellaneous	3,23,463	2,75,584
52A.—Forest Capital outlay not charged to Revenue	....	....
55.—Construction of Irrigation, etc., works not charged to Revenue	2,71,259	14,85,741
60.—Civil Works not charged to Revenue ..	4,75,276	12,52,240
60B.—Payment of commuted value of pensions ..	—12,57,499	....
Expenditure in England	40,29,324	37,90,141
Total ..	10,81,00,345	11,15,20,231
Transfer to Revenue Account on Famine Relief ..	...	89,000
Depreciation Fund for Government Press ..	37,000	34,000
Repayment of advances from the Provincial Loans Fund	5,90,000	21,24,000
Loans and advances by the Bengal Government ..	7,99,000	17,20,000
Suspense Accounts	....	7,44,000
Total ..	10,95,26,345	11,62,31,231

389. Explanations of the principal variations are given below:—

Land Revenue.—Part of the increased expenditure is due to a change in the classification of certain recoveries which used to be taken in reduction of expenditure as explained under "Receipts," and part to larger expenditure on the collection of revenue in Government estates and on major survey and settlement operations.

Excise.—Smaller quantity of opium purchased from the Ghazipur Factory mainly accounts for the decrease under this head.

Forests.—Larger expenditure on extraction of timber, and on organization, improvement and extension of forests accounts for the increase under this head, while smaller capital expenditure was incurred under the head "Forest capital expenditure charged to Revenue."

Registration.—The decrease as compared with the previous year is due to the absence of any payment of arrear rents.

Interest on works for which capital accounts are kept.—Larger capital expenditure on the Damodar Canal and the Madaripur Bhil Route has been followed by a rise under this head as a matter of course.

Construction of Irrigation, etc., works financed from Ordinary Revenue.—Larger capital outlay on the Madaripur Bhil Route accounts for the increased expenditure under this head.

Interest on ordinary revenue.—The fall under this head is consequential to the rise under the head "Interest on works for which capital accounts are kept" owing to the transfer of a larger amount under that head.

General Administration.—The increase is partly due to the change in classification of certain recoveries which used to be adjusted in reduction of expenditure, as explained under "Receipts—Miscellaneous," and partly to the normal growth under the head "Pay of Officers" and "Pay of Establishment," the rates of pay being incremental.

Administration of Justice.—Changes in the classification of recoveries from the Central and Assam Governments, whereby the recoveries were adjusted in reduction of expenditure instead of being credited as receipts, and the adjustment of recoveries from the Calcutta Corporation on account of the Presidency Magistrate's Courts as receipts instead of their being taken in reduction of expenditure account for the decrease under this head.

Jails.—Smaller expenditure on dietary charges and on the purchase of raw materials in the Central Jails mainly accounts for the smaller expenditure.

Police.—The marked rise in expenditure under this head is due mainly to the general revision of pay of sergeants, head constables and constables of the Calcutta and Bengal Police and of the assistant sub-inspectors of the Bengal Police with effect from the 1st November 1928; changes in classification of certain recoveries as explained under "Receipts—Police" also contributed towards larger direct expenditure under this head.

Ports and Pilotage.—Smaller capital outlay for building, repairs and outfit of Government vessels led to the decrease under this head.

Education.—The increase is attributable mainly to capital grants to the Dacca University for the construction of Moslem Hall and towards the sewerage scheme of the University.

Public Health.—Larger grants for public health purposes mainly account for the increased expenditure.

Agriculture.—Adjustment of gross charges on account of the pay of Veterinary assistants, larger supply of medical and surgical requisites and increased expenditure on account of pay of officers and their staff in the Agriculture and Co-operative Departments explain the rise in expenditure under this head.

Civil Works.—Smaller outlay on original works mainly accounts for the decrease in expenditure.

Famine Relief.—Larger expenditure on relief operations necessitated increased expenditure under this head.

Superannuation Allowances and Pensions.—The decrease is mainly due to the absence of any special adjustment of equated payment of commuted value of pensions and also to the adjustment in reduction of expenditure of the recoveries from other Governments.

Construction of Irrigation, etc., Works not charged to Revenue.—Larger capital expenditure on the Damodar Canal and the Bakreswar Irrigation Scheme accounts for the marked rise in expenditure under this head.

Civil Works not charged to Revenue.—Construction of the new Council Chamber and contribution towards the construction of roadways and footpaths over the Bally Bridge resulted in increased expenditure under this head.

Payment of commuted value of pensions.—The actuals in 1927-28 represented the adjustment of commuted value of pensions for 1926-27 in 1927-28.

Expenditure in England.—The decrease is due to a smaller number of officers having been on leave in the United Kingdom than in the previous year.

Stamps.

[Report on the Stamp Department for the three years ending the 31st March 1929.]

Revenue and charges.

390. The total receipts under the Stamp and Court-fee Acts amounted to Rs. 3,64,48,439 during the year showing an increase of Rs. 8,84,523 or 2·5 per cent. on those of 1927-28. The charges during the year were Rs. 17,89,988, against Rs. 12,89,733 in the previous year. The increase is mainly due to the fact that the cost of stamps supplied from Central Stores which amounted to Rs. 2,84,954 has been included in the expenditure and also to the comparatively larger amounts of refunds allowed of both judicial and non-judicial stamps during the year.

Judicial Stamps.

391. The sale proceeds of court-fee stamps (excluding stamps for copies) rose from Rs. 2,09,80,944 in 1927-28 to Rs. 2,16,81,520 in 1928-29. The increase of Rs. 7,00,576 was shared by all Divisions in the Presidency.

Non-Judicial Stamps.

392. The revenue derived from the sale of non-judicial stamps rose from Rs. 1,32,60,484 to Rs. 1,34,40,746 showing an increase of Rs. 1,80,262. The increase occurred mainly under the heads "Impressed Stamps" and "Miscellaneous Receipts." The increase under the former head took place in the Dacca, Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions.

Sale of Stamps.

393. The number of vendors holding licenses to sell stamps rose from 5,539 to 5,665 and the amount of discount allowed to them rose from Rs. 4,63,783 to Rs. 4,75,374.

Deficient duty.

394. The total number of cases in which deficient duty and penalty were levied by Civil Courts under section 35 of Act II of 1899 rose from 1,443 to 1,794, and the amount of duty and penalty from Rs. 13,870 to Rs. 14,003. The number of cases decided by Revenue Courts under sections 32, 37, 40 and 41 of the Act rose from 3,845 to 4,026, with a marked increase in the amount of duty and penalty realised from Rs. 66,405 to Rs. 1,00,734.

Prosecutions under the Stamp Act.

395. The number of cases instituted for infringement of the provisions of the Stamps Act was 180 against 161 in 1927-28. Of the 202 persons brought to trial during the year, 178 were convicted, the figures for the previous year being 179 and 164 respectively. The fines imposed fell from Rs. 4,797 to Rs. 4,151, and the rewards paid to informers decreased from Rs. 2,999 to Rs. 2,947.

Working of Section 19H of the Court Fees Act.

396. Of the cases of valuation of estates for issue of probates and letters of administration reported during 1928-29, including those pending at the beginning of the year, 69·9 per cent. were completely enquired into against 64·9 per cent. in the preceding year. The proportion borne by the deficit duty required to the amount originally realised was 12 per cent. against 14·8 per cent. in the previous year.

Arrangement for the supply of stamps in emergent cases.

397. In consequence of the removal of the Central Stamp Stores from Calcutta to Nasik a small Reserve Stamp Depôt has been opened at Calcutta, to meet the emergent requirements of local and branch depôts in this Presidency. This depôt has been located in the office of the Deputy Controller of Stationery, but it is under the administrative control of the Collector of Stamp Revenue, Calcutta. It began to function from the 1st April 1928, and complied with 75 emergent indents during the year, involving supplies of stamps to the value of Rs. 2,52,272.

Excise.

[Report on the Administration of the Excise Department in Bengal, 1928-29. Statistics of British India, Part IV (*a*)—Finance and Revenue Accounts.]

Excise Licensing Boards and Advisory Committees.

398. The Licensing Boards consisted for the municipalities of Calcutta, Howrah, Bally and those in the districts of 24-Parganas, Dacca, Rangpur and Chittagong continued to function in respect of the number and location of shops for the retail sale of excisable articles and opium. The Boards worked satisfactorily and Government acted on their decisions in almost all cases. In areas outside the above districts most of the recommendations of the Local Advisory Committees were accepted.

Revenue.

399. The total excise revenue amounted to Rs. 2,25,61,040 against Rs. 2,24,69,057 showing an increase of Rs. 91,983. The heads which showed an increase were "Total receipts from hemp drugs" (Rs. 2,72,691), being due to the increase in the rate of duty on ganja from the 1st April 1928; "License fees for sale of distillery spirits" (Rs. 1,84,894), being due to the increase in the scale of license fees from the 1st April 1928; and "Receipts from commercial spirits including denatured spirits and medicated wines" (Rs. 21,181). Against this there was a decrease of Rs. 1,49,255 under the head "Duty on distillery spirits," Rs. 80,511 under "Pachwai" and Rs. 57,321 under "Duty on wines and spirits manufactured in India and classed as foreign liquors." The incidence of excise revenue per head of population was 7 annas 8 pies as in the previous year.

Country spirit.

400. The number of shops decreased by four and the consumption by 8,131 L. P. gallons. Consumption increased in 13 districts and decreased in 14 districts. The decrease in the districts of Murshidabad, Jessore, Birbhum, Burdwan, Bankura and Nadia was due to poverty caused by the failure of winter crops in the previous year. In Burdwan the general depression of the coal trade and in Bankura an anti-drink movement amongst the Santhals also contributed to the decrease. The increase in the districts where it occurred was nominal, except in Midnapore and Mymensingh. The increase in Midnapore was due to the successful detection of illicit distillation cases in the jungle area, while in Mymensingh it was attributed to the influx of up-country labourers, railway and other settlers.

Tari.

401. The tree-tax system continued to work satisfactorily in the districts of Hooghly, Howrah, Calcutta and the 24-Parganas. The total number of fermented tari licenses decreased from 519 to 509 and the total receipts from Rs. 9,78,550 to Rs. 9,75,538.

Pachwai.

402. The total number of pachwai licenses issued was 78,618 as compared with 61,027 in 1927-28. The revenue in license fees from "retail vend shops" decreased from Rs. 11,50,854 to Rs. 10,47,816. The decrease was considerable in Burdwan, Birbhum, Bankura and Midnapore due to the failure of winter crops in the previous year. In Midnapore and Bankura an organised attempt on the part of the Santhals to boycott pachwai shops also contributed to the decrease.

Foreign liquor.

403. The total number of licenses issued for "trade" and "public" vend of potable foreign liquor, exclusive of licenses for the retail sale of medicated wines and commercial spirits, was 1,481 against 1,610 in the preceding year. The total receipts from license fees decreased from Rs. 3,30,113 to Rs. 3,24,824.

Ganja.

404. The total of licenses issued for the retail sale of ganja was 1,205 against 1,208 in 1927-28. The total receipts amounted to Rs. 49,91,507 against Rs. 46,86,329 in the previous year, the net increase being Rs. 3,05,178 due to the increase in the rate of duty from the 1st April 1928. The total quantity of ganja consumed amounted to 1,577 maunds against 1,671 maunds in the previous year. The consumption fell in 24 districts and increased in 3 districts. The total taxation was Rs. 77·6 per seer against Rs. 68·7 in the previous year.

Bhang.

405. The total quantity of bhang consumed amounted to 390 maunds against 427 maunds in the previous year. The total revenue from license fees and duty amounted to Rs. 1,92,330 as compared with Rs. 2,03,251 in 1927-28 showing a decrease of Rs. 10,921.

406. The total number of retail licenses was 34, the same as in the previous year, and the total revenue amounted to Rs. 3,05,382 as compared with Rs. 3,26,948 in 1927-28. Charas.

407. The total number of licenses issued for the retail sale of opium was 853 as compared with 854 in the previous year. The quantity of opium consumed amounted to 988 maunds as compared with 994 maunds in the previous year. The consumption increased in nine districts and decreased in sixteen districts. It remained stationery in two districts. The districts in which a noticeable increase occurred were Bakarganj and Noakhali. In Bakarganj the increase was due to the increase in the monthly allotment of opium of some of the shops and to the opening of a new shop to meet a local demand. In Noakhali it was due to the opening of a new shop to meet local needs. The total receipts amounted to Rs. 48,07,903 as compared with Rs. 47,98,712 in 1927-28. Forty-four maunds of contraband opium were seized in Bengal during the year as compared with forty and sixty-one maunds in the two previous year. Opium.

408. The total number of licenses issued to chemists and druggists for the sale of cocaine was 454 as compared with 455 in 1927-28. Eighty-six permits for the possession of cocaine were issued free to managers of hospitals or dispensaries not under Government supervision and fifty-one permits were issued to qualified medical practitioners and dentists. The total number of arrests for illicit sale or possession of cocaine was 303 against 479 in the previous year. In Calcutta 1,698 ounces of cocaine were seized by Customs officers, 318 ounces by Excise officers and 313 ounces by Police officers as compared with 1,973 ounces, 797 ounces and 19 ounces, respectively, in the previous year. The total quantity seized in Bengal was 2,349 ounces as compared with 2,789 ounces in the previous year. Cocaine.

409. The total number of persons prosecuted on charges under the Excise and Opium laws was 5,949 and of persons convicted 5,342, as compared with 6,179 and 5,500, respectively, in the previous year. Excise offences.

Road and Public Works Cesses.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for 1928-29.]

410. Except in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, where the Cess Act is not in force, the road and public works cesses continued to be levied at the maximum rate of one anna in the rupee on the valuation of lands and annual net profits of mines and immovable properties. Rate.

Demands and collections.

411. The valuation or gross rental, on which the cesses are based, amounted to Rs. 14,96,84,199 against the current land revenue demand of the area of Rs. 2,97,10,746. The proportion of land revenue to rental works out at 19·8 per cent. The total cess demand was Rs. 1,00,84,790. The current demand showed a net decrease of Rs. 57,825 over that of the preceding year. The decrease was mainly in the district of Burdwan where there was a falling off of Rs. 1,10,366 owing to the fact that most of the second class collieries ceased to work and the profits of the rest declined considerably. There were, however, notable increases in the cess demand in the districts of Hooghly, Rangpur and Howrah owing to cess revaluation in those districts. The percentage of total collections on the current demand rose from 97·30 in the preceding year to 97·87. The percentage of the outstanding balance on the total demand (16·3) was the same as in the preceding year. The percentage of total collection on current demand exceeded the standard of 100 per cent. in the districts of Bankura, Midnapore, Khulna, Dacca, Faridpur, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri, Bogra and Pabna. The percentage varied from 89·9 to 99·26 in the remaining districts of the Presidency.

Working of the certificate procedure.

412. The total number of certificates filed for the recovery of arrears of cesses was 43,220 against 44,404 in the preceding year. Including 16,499 certificates pending from the previous year, the total number of certificates for disposal amounted to 59,719 of which 44,737 were disposed of and 14,982 left pending at the close of the year.

Valuation and revaluation.

413. General revaluation operations were in progress on a large scale in the districts of Khulna, Noakhali, Pabna, Bogra, Dinajpur and Jalpaiguri. The revision of assessment of coal mines in the districts of Burdwan and Birbhum and of certain Gazari forests in Dacca and Mymensingh was made as usual, under Chapter V of the Cess Act. Partial valuations and revaluations were also undertaken in the districts of Burdwan, Hooghly, Howrah, 24-Parganas, Nadia, Jessore, Faridpur, Bakerganj, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Malda.

CHAPTER VI.—VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

Public Health.

[Report of the Director of Public Health, Bengal, for the year 1928.]

General health conditions.

414. With the improvement in the economic conditions of the province during the year under review the birth-rate increased and the death-rate decreased, giving a net increase in the population of 4·1 per mille. In 22 of the districts births exceeded deaths, but it was otherwise in the case of the remaining five, namely, Calcutta, Jessore, Hooghly, Rajshahi and Chittagong. Bengal, however, still stood last on the list in spite of the fact that its rate of natural increase was practically double what it was in the previous year. It had a higher birth-rate than Burma alone, while its death-rate was lower than the Central Provinces, Bombay and Madras. Its infant mortality rate was lower than the Central Provinces, Burma, Madras and Bombay but higher than others. Cholera was responsible for 11·5 per cent. of the total mortality, small-pox 3·7, malaria 31·0, kala-azar ·9, enteric ·7, dysentery and diarrhœa 2·8, respiratory diseases 3·5 and injuries 1·7.

Collection and verification of vital statistics.

415. The Births and Deaths Registration Act is now applied to the whole of Bengal with the exception of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, though it has not yet fully materialised in the rural areas, owing to its very recent introduction. Strange as it may appear, the rural statistics are more reliable than those of the towns, although in the latter the Act has been in force since their establishment. The defective character of these reports has been commented on by the Director of Public Health in his Annual Reports.

As an instance may be mentioned that more than 100 out of the 117 municipalities in the province returned birth and death-rates below the provincial rates. Again only 32 instituted proceedings against defaulters for omission to register vital occurrences. Of the 209 such cases tried during the year only 154 resulted in conviction.

The transfer of the compilation work of the statistical returns effected in the previous year from the police to presidents of union boards in areas where the latter have been established has delayed preparation of these returns, and consequently of the provincial monthly vital statistical returns.

Epidemic diseases: Cholera.

416. Cholera again continued in its virulence claiming 16·0 per cent. more deaths than in the previous year, and accounting for 11·5 per cent. of the total mortality in 1928 against 9·9 per cent. in 1927 and 5·1 in 1926. Starting on its rise in October of

the previous year it continued with slight fluctuations till it reached its maximum in April 1928, then gradually declined attaining its minimum in August, after which it again rose gradually till the close of the year. 24-Parganas among the districts and Netrakona among towns returned the highest death-rates. The local bodies were alert from the beginning, and in co-operation with the Public Health Department took timely vigorous measures to control the epidemic. Nearly two million inoculations were performed up to the end of the year 1929 and about one hundred thousand tanks and wells, in addition to a number of infected houses and patients' clothes and latrines, were disinfected by the local sanitary staff and the Government Sub-Assistant Surgeons and Sanitary Inspectors deputed by the Public Health Department for the purpose. The Public Health Department helped the local bodies by placing at their disposal the services of 18 medical officers from their field staff augmented by a temporary staff of five Sub-Assistant Surgeons and 100 Sanitary Inspectors. Propaganda work was carried on as usual by the Government Publicity staff and the local Sanitary Officers. Special arrangements were made to inoculate Puri Rathjatra and the Gangasagar Mêla pilgrims.

Small-pox.

417. The quinquennial outbreak which started in 1924 continued during the year under review with a very slight excess in its death-rate over that of the previous year. There are indications, however, of its weakening, though nothing can be predicted definitely in view of the apprehended pandemic about 1930-33. The mortality was highest between March to June when it began to diminish, gradually reaching its minimum in November. It was higher than the decennial average in every month of the year. About 10 per cent. of the total mortality due to small-pox occurred among infants and about 25 per cent. among children between one and 10 years of age, showing great laxity in enforcing the provisions of the Vaccination Act under which every child should be vaccinated within six months of its birth. The Health Officers ascribe this to the unwillingness on the part of the parents or guardians to have their children vaccinated before they attain the age of one year and even three or four years in some districts; besides this the local staff are reported to have devoted their entire attention during the year to suppressing local outbreaks of small-pox and could not spare sufficient time to perform their normal duties in connection with vaccination. Malda suffered most, but the local authorities lost no time in starting a vigorous campaign of mass vaccination and revaccination and succeeded in protecting about three-fifths of its population. Besides Malda, Dacca, Mymensingh, Faridpur, Chittagong,

Tippera, Dinajpur, Nadia, Rangpur, Murshidabad, Burdwan and Midnapur were also subjected to violent local outbreaks. The centre thus appears to have shifted to Eastern Bengal where five out of seven districts were involved. To meet the epidemic, a little more than five millions and a quarter operations were performed showing an excess of thirteen hundred thousand over those done in the previous year. The Government, in addition to the salary of the supervising staff, contributed the usual recurring grant of Rs. 50,000. In addition to vaccination, disinfection of infected houses and clothing and water supplies was also resorted to. Measures were also taken to prevent the throwing of corpses of small-pox patients in the river.

Malaria.

418. There was a further reduction in the death-rate of malaria by 14·1 per cent.; 31·0 per cent. of the total mortality was due to this cause against 36·1 per cent. in the previous year. The rise in the number of new admissions from malaria to the various hospitals in the province began in June and was continued till November when the trend line attained its peak and started on a decline. Judging from the fever indices malaria appears to have increased in Jalpaiguri, Jessore, Rangpur, Hooghly, Bogra, Midnapur, Bankura, Noakhali, Chittagong, Mymensingh and Bakarganj but reduced in others. There was a corresponding reduction in the quinine consumption from 7,214 lbs. to 6,741 lbs. during the year. This decrease was noticed in all the districts except in seven, in five of which the fever indices still continue high. The anti-malarial experimental schemes were continued throughout the year. Other anti-malarial measures adopted in addition to the distribution of quinine and cinchona febrifuge, through the agencies of district board dispensaries and kala-azar doctors and anti-malarial co-operative societies, were as usual, the treatment of malaria patients and propaganda by lantern and magic lantern demonstrations, cutting of jungles, kerosinising the dobas and draining away of small collections of water and stagnant drains.

Kala-azar.

419. The total number of deaths from this cause was reduced by 1,109 and the death-rate by 12·0 per cent. in the province, 17·8 per cent. in towns and 8·4 in rural areas. There has been a gradual reduction in kala-azar deaths since 1925. Practically half of the deaths in the towns occurred in Calcutta, which in common with the rest of the province recorded a decrease of 11·1 per cent. compared with the previous year. In the rural areas, the number of kala-azar cases admitted to the various treatment centres was reduced by about 38,000; this reduction being proportionately shared by all the districts except five. The district boards aided by the Government contribution of

Rs. 1,02,000 maintained 333 special centres during this year for treating kala-azar cases. The Central Co-operative Anti-malaria Society, the Bengal Health Association and the Kalna Mission were also aided by Government contribution and maintained 120 centres for the treatment of kala-azar cases. There were also 49 such centres maintained by voluntary public health agencies.

Enteric fever, measles, relapsing fever and other fevers.

420. The death-rate from all these causes showed an increase over the previous year, but the registration of such deaths being extremely unreliable, no definite conclusion as to the actual extent of their prevalence can be arrived at. ·7 per cent. of the total mortality was due to enteric, ·1 to measles, ·3 to relapsing fever and 30·1 to other fevers.

Plague.

421. Six deaths were caused by bubonic plague in the province, four in Calcutta, one in Burdwan and one in Rangpur district. All the cases but one were imported from outside. Immediate necessary precautions stamped out the disease.

Dysentery and diarrhœa.

422. Death-rate from dysentery and diarrhœa increased by 14·3 per cent., dysentery by 5·4 per cent. and diarrhœa by 23·1 per cent.; 2·8 per cent. of the total mortality were caused by dysentery and diarrhœa. The maximum number of deaths occurred in December and January and the minimum in June. With the exception of October, November and December it exceeded the previous year's rate in every month.

Respiratory diseases.

423. The death-rate from the respiratory diseases increased by 28·1 per cent., pneumonia by 37·9 and influenza and phthisis due to respiratory diseases. The death-rate increased by 3·8 per by 25·0 per cent. each, 3·5 per cent. of the total mortality being cent. in all towns, 2·0 per cent. in Calcutta and 50 per cent. in rural areas. The lowest number of deaths occurred in June, after which it rose to reach its maximum towards the close of the year. Compared with the previous decennium the death-rate increased in all the districts but two—Murshidabad and Darjeeling.

Injuries.

424. The number of deaths from injuries exceeded that in the previous year by 943, suicide by 19, deaths from wounds and accidents by 793, snake bites and attacks of wild animals by 40 and from rabies by 91. The death-rate increased by 4·8 per cent.

Other epidemic diseases.

425. Special arrangements were made in Midnapur district for the treatment of leprosy cases in three dispensaries, where 169 cases were treated during the year. Filiarisis and leprosy are reported to be spreading throughout the Bankura district. A rough survey undertaken by the Malda District Health Officer

showed the existence of over 1,500 well marked cases of leprosy in that district. A few cases of leprosy were detected by the District Health Officer in Bogra district; 18 cases of beri-beri were reported from Faridpur and eight from Bakarganj. A fairly large number of cases of Frambœsia Tropica (Yaws) known locally as Myang were investigated by Dr. B. C. Mukharji, late officiating Assistant Director of Public Health in charge of Dacca and Rajshahi Circles. The disease was found to be extremely prevalent at Ramgarh on the Feni River, mostly during the rainy season. One hundred and sixteen cases were examined in the Feni Valley and 100 in the Chengi Valley, and the incidence of the disease was found to be 11·5 per cent. in the former and 14·0 per cent. in the latter area. Neo Salvarsan gave very good results. It appears to have been imported from Burma, where it is widely prevalent in the Chin Hills.

General: (1) Public Health Laboratories: (a) Bengal Public Health Laboratory.

426. Three thousand five hundred and one chemical, 5,501 bacteriological and 2,422 food, or a total of 11,424 samples were examined against 9,825 in the previous year, showing an increase of 16·3 per cent. These consisted of water, septic tank effluents, vaccine lymph, rats, disinfectants, blood, urine, sputum, stools, etc. With regard to the food samples examined of butter, milk, ghee, mustard oil, flour and tea, it was observed that adulteration was going on a much larger scale in the rural than in the urban areas. Research work consisted of—(*i*) the preparation of Vitamin B Extract from rice polishings, (*ii*) analysis of smoke washings, (*iii*) estimation of available chlorine in bleaching powder, (*iv*) work on energy giving property of fat contained in ghee and the vegetable product, (*v*) clarification and subsequent purification of raw waters with certain special reagents, (*vi*) work on the food value of Anacardium Occidentale or "Hijli Badam," (*vii*) work on the souring of milk and on (*viii*) electric conductivity of water.

(b) Dacca Branch, Public Health Laboratory.

427. Three hundred and fifty-nine samples of water and 338 of sewage were examined chemically, and 790 samples of water bacteriologically against 344, 349 and 712 in the previous year. Nine hundred and seventy-three samples of foodstuffs were also examined against 781 in the previous year. 64·1 per cent. ghee, 52·6 per cent. of mustard oil samples, 42·6 per cent. of milk and 20 per cent. of tea were found adulterated.

(c) Bengal Excise Laboratory.

428. Seven thousand four hundred and ninety-six samples including medicinal preparations, distillery samples, illicit liquors, country spirit, tari, pachwai, bakhar, brandy, beer and gin, and quinine sulphate tablets were examined. Weights and measures were tested for accuracy and instruments for standardisation.

(*d*) Bengal Vaccine Laboratory.

429. This was started in 1927 for manufacturing anti-cholera vaccine. An aggregate of a little more than two and half million doses was produced from August 1927 to December 1928.

(*e*) Darjeeling Municipal Laboratory.

430. Seventy-four samples of water were examined chemically and 232 bacteriologically, 27 samples of sewage effluents chemically, as also two of alcoholic liquors, one of common salt and one of soda and superphosphate of lime. Of the 385 samples of foodstuffs examined, 48 were found adulterated; 1,067 clinical samples consisting of urine, blood, stools, sputa, throat swabs, etc., were also examined.

(2) School hygiene.

431. School medical inspection work in Bengal increased further in 1928 in mufassal as well as in the city of Calcutta. One college and 176 schools were visited and 13,750 students were examined; of these 5,676 were examined by the three newly appointed subsidised school medical officers of Calcutta, 2,874 by the Sub-Assistant Surgeon in charge of school medical inspection work under Asansol Mining Settlement, and 1,517 by Dr. Adhikari of Narayanganj Municipality, the others examining less than 1,000 each. Five hundred and forty-one girls were also examined. One hundred and thirty-two plans for educational institutions were examined. The School Hygiene branch also organised dai-training classes and assisted at the Annual Calcutta Health Exhibition.

(3) Dai-training.

432. Grants-in-aid were made to 24 district boards, 26 municipalities and Saroj Nalini Dutt Memorial Association for starting 100 training classes consisting of 10 dais each. One thousand and ninety-eight indigenous dais were trained in 98 classes during the year by the various local bodies to whom allotments were made and 793 bags and 552 certificates were distributed.

(4) Educational propaganda and publicity.

433. The increasing popularity of the publicity bureau of the Public Health Department was evidenced by the growing demands and constant requisition for its officers and materials by public bodies, private institutions and individuals holding widely divergent political views. One hundred and thirty places outside the headquarters including interiormost villages were visited and 372 health lectures were delivered. Almost all the district headquarters, subdivisional towns, a number of union boards and several small villages participated in the health welfare movement. Models, charts, posters, leaflets and pamphlets were supplied to the shows and, whenever available, officers were deputed to help the organisers with lantern lectures. The departmental health films, especially those relating to maternity and

child welfare, were in special request. Eighty-nine exhibitions and 77 baby shows were organised during the year. Over 38,000 persons visited the health car attached to the Eastern Bengal Railway Exhibition train and 12 to 15 times the number, the evening cinema shows. Sixty sets of multi-coloured slides were renewed and 30 new slides on food and vitamines were designed and prepared by the Publicity branch. The department possesses 24 sets of films including 38 reels on various preventible diseases. More than four hundred thousand leaflets and pamphlets on preventible diseases were issued by the branch. Local newspapers and the Indian Broadcasting Company have been utilised as other agencies for publicity purposes.

(5) Fairs and mêlas.

434. Although the Gangasagar Mêla met in the midst of a most virulent and widespread epidemic of cholera in Bengal, only three cases of this disease occurred on the mêla ground, of whom one died and the other two were removed to Diamond Harbour Hospital. Over 50 per cent. of the pilgrims were inoculated against cholera before they reached the mêla and 3,498 in the mêla ground itself, in addition to 1,315 persons inoculated in the adjoining villages. One case of cholera occurred at Nangalband Mêla in Dacca district but was subsequently discharged cured. No case either of small-pox or chicken-pox occurred in the mêla ground. Two hundred and six primary and 4,363 revaccinations were, however, performed there. Sixty-one deaths from cholera occurred at the Gan Mêla in Nabadwip Municipality. Anti-cholera inoculations were freely administered and other sanitary measures taken. One death from cholera occurred at Shivratri Mêla in Sitakund.

(6) Septic tank latrines.

435. Eight new septic tanks were installed, while another four were under construction during the year. One thousand seven hundred and fifteen samples of effluents were sent to the Bengal Public Health Laboratory of which 531 were examind bacteriologically and 1,184 chemically. Several installations when found to contain an excessive amount of solid matter were temporarily closed down, cleaned out and the contents trenched. Filter beds were attended to, new filtering material being put in as required, while special attention was paid to the sterilising of the final effluent.

Sanitary administration in municipal and rural areas.

436. Eighteen Health Officers and 94 Sanitary- Inspectors were employed in the municipalities of the province excluding Calcutta. Midnapur, Serampur and Barisal Municipalities did not maintain any Health Officer and Titagarh, Bhatpara, Barasat, Rajshahi and Sherpur (Bogra) any Sanitary Inspector during the

year, although required to do so under Government orders. All the district boards except Darjeeling were provided with qualified Health Officers. Two hundred and seventy-two Health Circles, each under a qualified Sanitary Inspector or an Assistant Health Officer, were working under the Rural Public Health Organisation Scheme, in as many police thanas by the end of 1928, and were being systematically inspected by the Circle Assistant Directors of Public Health. A number of public health committees have also been formed under the same scheme. The officers in charge of the Health Circles looked after the epidemics including cholera and small-pox in their respective jurisdictions and were able, under the direction of the District Health Officers and the co-operation of the Government staff, to control them so far as it lay in their hands to do so.

Mortality caused by wild animals and snakes.

[Report on the above and measures taken for destruction of wild animals and snakes during 1928. Statistics of British India, PartV—Area, population and public health.]

Wild animals.

437. The number of persons killed by wild animals fell from 200 to 126 in 1928.

Tigers were responsible for 11 deaths against 30 in the previous year.

Sankes.

438. The number of persons who died from snake-bite increased from 3,660 to 3,749 in 1928. The increase occurred in the Presidency, Burdwan and Rajshahi Divisions of the Presidency.

Destruction of wild animals.

439. The number of wild animals killed was 1,162 in 1928 against 763 in the previous year. Rewards paid for the destruction of wild animals and snakes totalled Rs. 4,593-8 and Rs. 167-7-6 against Rs. 4,598-8 and Rs. 128-5 in the previous year.

Vaccination.

[Triennial Report on Vaccination in Bengal for the years 1926-27, 1927-28 and 1928-29.]

440. Five million two hundred and eighty-one thousand four hundred and nineteen operations, including 2,052,217 primary and 3,229,202 revaccinations were performed during the year 1928-29 against 3,975,837, 1,928,674 and 2,047,163, respectively, in the previous year, showing an increase of 1,305,582, 123,543

and 1,182,039 operations. Of these 1,896,877 were successful primary and 1,833,310 successful revaccinations, showing an increase of 82,162 in the case of the former and 741,061 in that of the latter. In rural areas the number of primary vaccinations was 1,937,864 and that of revaccinations 2,927,350 against 1,822,550 and 1,778,306, showing an increase of 115,314 and 1,149,044 operations or of 6·32 and 64·6 per cent., respectively, over the previous year. In the municipalities, this increase amounted to 4,684 in primary and 25,073 in revaccinations. Other agencies performed an excess of 10,077 vaccinations. An average of 256·0 per mille of the surviving population of infants were successfully vaccinated in the province, 237·8 in rural areas and 524·7 in the municipal areas. The average cost of each successful case was one anna and seven pies. The total expenditure on vaccination amounted to Rs. 4,84,635, of which Rs. 1,85,165 (including the annual recurring grant of Rs. 50,000) were contributed by the Government and Rs. 2,99,470 by local bodies. The quinquennial epidemic of small-pox seems to have shifted to Eastern Bengal.

Sanitary Engineering.

[Bengal Sanitary Board's Report and the Report of the Chief Engineer, Public Health Department, for the year 1928.]

Sanitary Board.

441. The Bengal Sanitary Board consisted of six official and eight non-official members during the year 1928. The Board held five ordinary meetings and a special meeting during the year. Six sketch projects and five detailed projects of water-supply were approved by the Board during the year and submitted to the Local Government. A scheme for sinking six tube-wells within the Bally Municipality was also submitted to the Local Government for sanction. A similar scheme for the Murshidabad Municipality was returned to the local authorities for reconsideration in consultation with the Chief Engineer, Public Health Department. The municipal inspection reports and the reports on the examination of the various water-supplies in Bengal were discussed and necessary action taken.

Sanitary Engineering.

442. Under the control and supervision of the Chief Engineer, Public Health Department, construction of 25 schemes was carried on during the year, including 18 water-supply schemes, two at Dacca and one each at Naryanganj, South Chandpur, Comilla, Kalimpong, Khulna, Patuakhali, Faridpur, Pabna, Howrah, Naihati, Bhatpara, Burdwan, Midnapore, Raniganj, Suri and Asansol; and four sewerage schemes, one each for the Dacca University, Tittagarh and Kalimpong Bazar, the fourth scheme

including three minor schemes for the Post Office, Jagannath Intermediate College and the Islamia Intermediate College at Dacca and also the sanitation scheme for the Reserved Police lines at Burdwan, the Dacca main drainage extension scheme and the Pitometer Surveys by which the leaks in the distribution mains of the water-works at Burdwan and Narayanganj were successfully detected and the wastage caused through them determined. During the year an experimental tube-well was sunk at Feni Bazar in addition to the assistance rendered by the departmental plant and staff to the sinking of tube-wells at Nachoul, Kasumdanga and Parbatipur in the Malda district. Further, the sinking of four tube-wells at Hussainpur, Mohanganj, Elashia and Pingna in the Mymensingh district was under the Chief Engineer's supervision during the year. Seven sketch projects of water-supply at Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Hooghly, Brahmanbaria, Kortung, Berhampore, Narayanganj and five detailed projects—three of water-supply at Bansbaria, North Chandpur, English Bazar and two of drainage for Howrah and Tittagarh—were prepared by him during the year. Besides, the Chief Engineer, Public Health Department, examined the detailed scheme for drainage of a portion of Bogra town and the scheme of water-supply from tube-wells for the Debhatta Municipality, prepared estimates of eight schemes relating to water-works and several schemes of a miscellaneous nature at the request of local authorities and Government institutions.

The total capital expenditure on construction of water-works during the year was Rs. 4,79,876 and on drainage and sewerage projects Rs. 1,94,617.

MEDICAL RELIEF.

Calcutta Hospitals and Dispensaries.

[Triennial Report on the working of Hospitals and Dispensaries in Bengal, 1926-28.]

Number of institutions.

443. During the triennium 11 new dispensaries were opened and one, Sukea Street dispensary, was closed, making a total of 42 as against 32 in the previous triennium. In the indoor hospitals the total number of beds increased from 3,086 to 3,350, the increase being chiefly due to provision of 86 additional beds in the Medical College Hospitals and 45 in the Howrah General Hospital. Of the newly opened institutions the Baldeodas Maternity Home provided 30 beds, the Chittaranjan Hospital 56 beds.

444. The total number of indoor patients treated in the Calcutta Hospitals was 46,653, 51,253, 51,303, respectively, during the three years. The increase is attributable to the provision of additional beds in the newly opened institutions referred to above. The death-rate recorded a decrease, being 12·34 in 1926, 12·23 in 1927 and 11·33 in 1928. The total number of out-patients showed an excess of 374,253 over the corresponding figure of the previous triennium. This increase is ascribed principally to the opening of new institutions—the attendance was the largest however at the Medical College Hospitals, the Carmichael Medical College Hospital at Belgachia occupying the second position. Attendance and admissions.

445. The problem of nursing continued to be acute. In the Medical College Hospitals employing the largest number of nurses the work has considerably increased owing to the addition of honorary physicians and surgeons, and great credit is due to the nursing staff for shouldering the increased burden so successfully. Except in the case of the Presidency General Hospital, the number of nurses in all hospitals is inadequate. The nursing arrangement in the Campbell Hospital is still unsatisfactory. A proposal for the training and employment of male nurses in this institution was still under the consideration of Government. The difficulty of obtaining suitable recruits for training as nurses could not be overcome. Nursing.

446. The total receipts of Class I, III and IV institutions amounted to Rs. 97,49,306 during the triennium as against a total income of Rs. 88,80,529 in the preceding three years. Government contributions amounted to Rs. 59,79,144, or over 60 per cent., and of this sum Rs. 56,18,938 was spent on the State institutions. Subscriptions and donations amounted to Rs. 4,52,598. The municipal contributions to the Campbell and the Sambhunath Pandit Hospitals amounted to Rs. 7,62,161. The total cost of maintenance of the Calcutta Hospitals, excluding investments, was Rs. 92,53,047 during the period as compared with Rs. 83,96,705 in the previous triennium. Finance.

District Hospitals and Dispensaries.

447. During the triennium 107 new dispensaries were opened and 25 closed. There was thus a net increase of 82. The total number of beds in the district hospitals was 5,553 or 244 more than in the previous triennium. Number of institutions.

Besides these permanent dispensaries there were also a number of temporary dispensaries which rendered medical relief in the rural areas of several districts.

Nursing.

448. Little change occurred in the nursing arrangements in the mufassal hospitals and dispensaries and, as before, the nursing except in a few sadar hospitals and Mission institutions was left principally to relatives of patients and ward coolies. The importance of proper nursing in the amelioration of sickness does not appear to have been fully realised by local bodies. Want of a sufficient number of trained nurses and the lack of adequate funds to pay reasonable wages are also factors in the present situation.

Attendance.

449. Altogether 23,775,238 patients received treatment in the area outside Calcutta during the past three years, as compared with 21,572,385 during the preceding triennium, and the number of indoor patients was 226,597 against the total of 199,112, the Dacca Mitford Hospital treating the largest number as before. The total number of out-patients was 23,548,641, the corresponding figure for the previous triennium being 21,373,273.

Disease.

450. Malaria accounted for the largest number of patients treated, the number of malaria patients being 6,167,897 as against 6,199,729 in the preceding three years. The Public Health Department continued to supply quinine and cinchona febrifuge to the mufassal dispensaries, while quinine was sold to the public through the post offices by the Jail Department. The number of patients treated for kala-azar increased from 230,937 to 246,981, but the number of patients fell from 104,648 in 1926 to 65,829 in 1928, which is attributable to some extent to the opening of kala-azar centres by almost all district boards which reduced attendance at dispensaries, and also to the results of treatment minimising the number of infective individuals.

Finance.

451. The actual receipts of Class I, III and IV institutions amounted to Rs. 22,71,701, Rs. 23,21,916 and Rs. 23,97,242, respectively, during the three years and the expenditure to Rs. 21,53,759, Rs. 22,00,142, Rs. 23,04,722. Among other sources of income local fund and municipal contributions together amounted to 58·76 per cent. of the income, subscriptions and donations 15·21 per cent. and Government contributions 15·78 per cent.

Eden Sanitarium, Darjeeling.

[Report of the Eden Sanitarium and Hospital for 1928.]

General.

452. The Eden Sanitarium and Eden Hospital were founded for the benefit of Europeans residing in this province and elsewhere, who are unable to obtain in their homes the care and attention which they require when overtaken by sickness or accidents.

453. During the year the Sanitarium remained open from 1st April to 15th November and the Hospital from 8th January to 4th December 1928. There was a decrease in the number of admissions from 547 to 475. The total number of patients treated in the Hospital was 98, of whom 95 were cured and 3 died. Number of patients.

454. No special grant from Government was required by the institution. The usual grant of Rs. 1,500 for the maintenance of free beds was made by Government. In spite of a considerable increase in receipts from donations and subscriptions, the working of the year showed a loss of Rs. 981 and the balance-sheet shows that liabilities exceeded assets by Rs. 10,701. Finance.

The Poisons Act.

[Working of the Poisons Act during the year 1928-29.]

455. Three thousand five hundred and seventy-one licences were current during the year throughout the Presidency excluding Calcutta, as against 3,057 in the previous year. In Calcutta 490 licences were renewed and 145 fresh licences issued, making a total of 635 against 574 licences current in the preceding year. There were 46 prosecutions under the Act; of these 16 were in Calcutta, 15 ending in conviction; outside Calcutta there were 30 cases but only 8 convictions. There were 22 cases of cattle-poisoning in the Presidency. Of the cases disposed of six ended in conviction.

Health of the Port of Calcutta.

456. The town and the port of Calcutta were not officially declared to be infected with plague in the year under review; 10 deaths were reported in hospitals among the European seamen. The admission rate to hospitals for all causes calculated on arrival figures was 24·71 per mille and the death-rate ·37 per mille. Sixty-four European seamen were admitted suffering from venereal diseases, the proportionate rate being 97·41 per mille of the total number of admissions. Six deaths among European seamen were registered at the Shipping Office, the death-rate being ·22 per mille on arrivals. Seventy-one Asiatic seamen and boatmen were admitted to the hospital, of which seven died. One hundred and fifty-three deaths or 8·29 per mille were reported by the police among the Asiatic floating population. Nine ships arrived in 1928 with infectious disease on board; the patients were removed to hospital and necessary precautionary measures were taken.

No case of sleeping sickness was found on any vessel coming from the East African ports and no alien leper was detected entering the country through the port of Calcutta. One thousand and seventy-nine deck passengers of 29 ships proceeding to the Straits were vaccinated. Seven hundred free vaccinations were also carried out among the floating population.

Health of the Port of Chittagong.

457. Ten European seamen were admitted to the hospitals but no death occurred. The admission rate to hospitals for all causes calculated on arrival figure was 6·75 per mille. There were 2 deaths out of 60 admissions to the Chittagong General Hospital from among the Indian seamen. A deck passenger on the S.S. "Pongtong" from Rangoon was found suffering from small-pox; the patient was removed to the hospital and the ship thoroughly disinfected and fumigated. One member of the crew of the S.S. "Chakdina" was found suffering from chicken-pox; he was sent to the local hospital and the ship's part occupied by him disinfected. Many cases of beri-beri arrived in the port by sea from ports in Burma and some of them proved fatal. One hundred and four crew were vaccinated. No alien leper entered the country through the port of Chittagong.

Emigration.

Inland Emigration.

[Report on Inland Emigration under the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, 1901, for the year ending 30th June 1929.]

458. There was again an increase in the number of emigrants despatched to the labour districts. In Bengal most of the emigrants come from Birbhum district, and 846 out of the total of 993 came from that district in the year under report. The rest came from the districts of Bankura, Burdwan, Midnapore and Murshidabad. The total number of recruits from Bengal and other provinces embarking at Goalundo was 19,565 (including those recruited in the Bombay Presidency outside the Act) as compared with 12,688 in the preceding year. The number of garden sardars employed was 604 (including 104 sardarins). All worked under the supervision of licensed local agents, of whom there were ten.

The rest houses for emigrants at Asansol, Kharagpur, Naihati and Goalundo, maintained by the Tea Districts Labour Association, were frequently inspected and were found to be satisfactory.

Eight deaths occurred among the emigrants in-transit, viz., two at the halting station at Asansol, four at Naihati and two at Goalundo. No death occurred at Kharagpur. Out of the total number of emigrants who arrived from the recruiting districts in and outside the Presidency of Bengal, nine deserted, viz., five from Kharagpur and four from Goalundo, one was released and fourteen were detained for treatment at the local hospital at Goalundo.

In connection with the transport of labour to Assam, receipts increased from Rs. 697 in the preceding year to Rs. 750, while the expenditure decreased from Rs. 16,756-4 to Rs. 9,341-8-6.

459. There was no emigration of unskilled labour from the Presidency of Bengal to countries overseas. Two skilled labourers went to Mauritius and two to the Federated Malay States. Foreign emigration.

CHAPTER VII.—INSTRUCTION.

General System of Public Instruction.

See General Administration Report for 1921-22, Part II, Pages 276-289.

EDUCATION.

[Progress of Education in Bengal for 1928-29.]

Educational institutions and expenditure.

460. During the year under review the number of institutions increased by 2,139. Recognised institutions rose in number from 61,786 to 63,910 and unrecognised institutions from 1,568 to 1,583. The number of pupils attending recognised institutions rose from 2,446,678 to 2,567,357 and pupils attending unrecognised institutions increased from 55,034 to 57,865. Of the total number of pupils reading in all classes of institutions, 2,129,098 were males and 496,124 were females as compared with 2,039,786 and 461,926, respectively, in the previous year. The total expenditure on public instruction amounted to about Rs. 434 lakhs, of which about Rs. 153 lakhs were received from provincial revenues, Rs. 17 lakhs and 10 lakhs from district and municipal funds, respectively, Rs. 178 lakhs from fees and Rs. 75 lakhs from other private sources.

Collegiate education.

461. On the 31st March 1929, there were in Bengal altogether 44 colleges for men and 4 (including the intermediate classes of the Eden High School for Girls, Dacca) for women, against 42 and 4 respectively, in the previous year. The adoption of the Calcutta University Intermediate Course by St. James' College and La Martinière College, Calcutta, both of which are Secondary Schools for Europeans and Anglo-Indians, is responsible for an increase by 2 in the number of colleges, but there was only an increase of 2 in the total number of students. The cost of maintaining colleges fell from Rs. 36,81,956 in 1927-28 to Rs. 36,57,438 in 1928-29. The average annual cost of a college amounted in the year under report to Rs. 76,196 and that of educating a pupil was Rs. 175. The total expenditure incurred during the year under review on the upkeep of colleges for men amounted to Rs. 35,10,693, as compared with Rs. 35,35,370 in the preceding year. Of this amount Rs. 12,81,350 was borne by provincial revenues and Rs. 3,000 by municipal funds, while Rs. 18,89,652 and Rs. 3,36,691 were provided from fees and other private sources, respectively. The stiffening of the standard of University examinations has been followed by a decline in the number of students in Arts Colleges and a consequent reduction in fee-income. This has led the authorities of many non-Government

colleges to apply to the Government for new and increased grants-in-aid, but the additional funds required for the purpose not being available in full, the colleges concerned had to meet the situation by curtailment of expenditure or increase of fee-rates.

No meeting of the Advisory Committee for Higher Education was held during the year. The various recommendations in the report of the Sanskrit College Committee have been considered by Government and the final decision reached will shortly be published in the term of a resolution.

Secondary education.

462. The number of Secondary Schools for Indian boys rose from 2,747 to 2,825. High and Middle English Schools increased by 22 and 60, respectively, but Middle Vernacular Schools decreased by 4. The number of pupils in High and Middle English Schools increased by 14,377 and 10,835, respectively, and that in Middle Vernacular Schools by 107. The cost of maintaining Secondary Schools amounted to more than 120 lakhs of rupees of which about 99 lakhs were met from private sources.

Primary education.

463. The number of Primary Schools for Indian boys rose from 39,990 to 41,232. On the 31st March 1929 these schools were attended by 1,561,307 pupils, as compared with 1,497,677 pupils on the corresponding date of the previous year. In addition to this number, the Primary Classes of Secondary Schools had on the same date 204,071 pupils, against 192,682 in 1927-28. Of the total Hindu male population 6·6 per cent. and of the Muhammadan male population 6·5 per cent. were in Boys' Primary Schools at the close of the year. Of the total number of pupils, 704,092 or 45·5 per cent. were Hindus and 8,42,794 or 54·4 per cent. were Muhammadans. The total cost of maintaining these schools amounted to Rs. 66,42,352; of these Rs. 21,15,776 came from provincial revenues, Rs. 7,26,383 from district funds, Rs. 4,71,587 from municipal funds and Rs. 33,28,606 from private sources. During the year the number of Panchayati Union Schools rose by 82. A sum of Rs. 26,000 was sanctioned for the construction of 26 additional Panchayati Union Schools for boys and a further sum of Rs. 1,23,252 was sanctioned for the maintenance of the schools built in previous years. A sum of Rs. 18,317 was also sanctioned towards the cost of 3 new schemes started under Mr. Biss's Scheme. On the 31st March 1929 there were 451 Primary Schools for boys in Calcutta, of which 126 were free and maintained by the Corporation.

Training of male teachers.

464. The problem of providing increased facilities for the training of teachers for Primary and Secondary Schools was examined at a small conference at the office of the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, in July 1928, and proposals for speeding up the training of primary school teachers and for increasing

the number of trained teachers of secondary schools by means of short courses are under consideration. During 1928-29 there were 95 institutions for the training of teachers for Indian schools, viz., 2 Colleges, 6 Normal Schools and 87 Guru and Muallim Training Schools. The two Training Colleges at Calcutta and Dacca had on their rolls 134 students in B. T. Class and only one student in the L.T. Class; no L. T. Class could be formed in the David Hare Training College for dearth of applicants. The two Colleges passed 126 students in B. T. and one in L. T. examinations.

In the David Hare Training College special tutorial classes have been organised and special facilities in blackboard drawing and handwriting have been provided for the students. In order to secure students of better calibre, an admission test for teachers of non-Government schools and outsiders has been introduced in the Training College at Dacca.

The two State scholarships available for the professional training in the United Kingdom of graduate teachers of Secondary Schools were awarded as usual—one to a Moslem and one to a Hindu teacher.

First Grade Training or Normal Schools.

465. Of the six Normal Schools 5 were Government institutions and one was aided. During 1928-29 the number of students on the rolls of these schools was 463. The schools passed 122 students out of 176 who sat for the final examination.

Guru and Muallim Training Schools.

466. On the 31st March 1929 there were in the Presidency 87 Guru and Muallim Training Schools with 2,001 pupils in them. The old type Guru training schools are gradually being replaced by larger schools of improved type, and this accounts for the decrease in the total number of schools. Out of 1,588 students who sat for the final examination from these institutions 1,149 were declared to have passed.

Training of women teachers.

467. A scheme for the establishment of a women's training college under departmental control is under consideration. At present women teachers of secondary schools are trained at the training departments attached to the Diocesan College and the Loreto House, Calcutta. The number of students in these institutions was 16 in the B. T. Class and 6 in the L. T. Class.

There were 10 training institutions for women teachers of primary schools with 199 students. Of these institutions three were as before directly managed by Government and seven controlled by the Christian and Brahmo Missions.

Professional and technical education : Bengal Engineering College.

468. On the 31st March 1929 the total number of students on the rolls of the Bengal Engineering College was 277 as against 268 on the corresponding date of the previous year. Thirty and twenty-five students passed the Bengal Engineering and the I. E. Examinations, respectively, during the year under report. Three obtained the Diploma in Mining. Owing to a change in the date of examination the annual results of the Associateship in Mechanical Engineering and for the Diploma in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering were included in the last year's report. The abolition of the Mining classes owing to the opening of the Indian School of Mines at Dhanbad necessitated a re-distribution of the scholarships and stipends reserved for Muhammadan students.

Ahsanullah School of Engineering.

469. The Ahsanullah School of Engineering, Dacca, had 417 pupils on its rolls on the 31st March 1929 as against 468 on the corresponding date of the previous year. The school passed 35 students in the Overseer and 68 students in the Sub-Overseer Examinations.

Government Commercial Institute, Calcutta.

470. The Government Commercial Institute, Calcutta, had on its roll 278 students on the 21st March 1929 as against 253 on the corresponding date of the preceding year. The Institute passed 12 students in the Final Commercial Course Examination and 144 in the Special Commercial Course Examination. The institution removed during the year under report to new premises in Hastings Street, where larger accommodation is available. The question of the development and reorganisation of the school engaged the attention of Government during the year.

Education of Indian girls and women.

471. The number of schools of all grades and types for Indian girls increased during the year under review from 15,741 to 16,798 and the number of pupils attending them from 387,087 to 423,005. Forty-five candidates appeared at the B. A. Examination, of whom 39 were successful; 89 candidates appeared at the I. A. and I. Sc. Examinations, of whom 81 came out successful. Classes in Music, both vocal and instrumental, were held regularly during the year under report at the Bethune College under the auspices of the Sangit Sangha. Singing was also taught to all the classes in the Eden Intermediate College, Dacca. At the Matriculation Examination of 1929, 283 candidates appeared from girls' high schools in the province, of whom 211 were successful against a total of 189 in the previous year. The Nari Siksha Samiti and the Society for the Improvement of Backward Classes did useful work in primary education. There has been an appreciable improvement in the quality of needle work done in girls' schools. The Lady Carmichael Diploma Examination in needle work is proving more

and more successful every year, and almost all the important schools in the Eastern Bengal Divisions take part in it.

Education of Europeans and Anglo-Indians.

472. The number of institutions for the education of Europeans and Anglo-Indians was 68 as compared with 64 in the previous year. Of the 68 institutions, 64 were schools for general education and 4 for special instruction. The increase is due to the inclusion of the Ishapur Park European School, the Jeshuran Free School, Calcutta, the Wesleyan Preparatory School at Hastings, Calcutta, and the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Apprentices' Night School, Kharagpur.

The new Code of Regulations came into force with effect from the 1st January 1929. The schools for general education included 22 secondary, 20 higher grade, 20 primary and 2 ungraded institutions. As before there were 3 institutions in the province, viz., the Victoria Boys' School, the Dow Hill Girls' School and the Dow Hill Training College, which were under the direct control of Government. The remaining schools were mainly under the management of the Railway authorities and the various Christian denominations.

The total number of pupils in European schools was 11,252. This figure included 1,944 non-European pupils attending European schools. The 68 European schools in Bengal employed 760 teachers on 31st March 1929 as compared with 725 on the corresponding date of the previous year. The total expenditure on the education of European and Anglo-Indian children amounted during the year under review to Rs. 39,68,243 as compared with Rs. 39,30,915 in the preceding year.

The Dow Hill Training College, Kurseong, is an institution for the training of only European and Anglo-Indian female teachers. There were 21 students on its roll as compared with 17 in the previous year. As there is no separate institution in the province for the training of European male teachers, Government provide stipends for those who desire to undergo such training. During the year under review two European male teachers were deputed to the Lawrence School at Ghora Gali, Punjab, for training as elementary teachers.

Special classes for probationary sick nurses were held at the Loreto Convent, Entally, and the St. Andrew's Colonial Homes, Kalimpong. In the latter institution special classes for children's nurses and for practical agricultural training were also held. Government have authorised the opening of evening continuation classes in connection with the Salesmanship Course under the Code of Regulations for Girls at the Young Women's Christian Association, Calcutta, on an experimental basis.

The Children's House at Kurseong, which is the only institution for the education of deficient and defective children, had 19 pupils on the rolls. The question of the development of the institution so as to make adequate arrangements for the training of defective children was under the consideration of Government. Five Milner Memorial Scholarships have been founded at the King's School, Canterbury, England, to perpetuate the memory of the late Lord Milner. These scholarships are open to boys of British parentage and European descent in the British Dominions, including India. The Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, has been made the local education authority in connection with the selection of candidates from European schools in Bengal.

Muhammadan Education.

473. The number of Muhammadan pupils studying in all types of educational institutions for Indians rose from 1,235,706 to 1,304,376. The proportion of Muhammadan pupils to the total number of pupils under instruction was 49·9 per cent. but in Arts and Professional Colleges the Muhammadans formed only 12·8 per cent. and 15·3 per cent., respectively, of the total number of pupils on the rolls. In the high and middle stages of instruction, the proportion of the Muhammadans was 15·6 per cent. and 20·4 per cent., respectively, of the pupils of all communities. In the primary stage the proportion was, however, 52·2 per cent. The number of Islamic Intermediate Colleges remained unchanged at 3 during the year. The total number of pupils reading in these 3 institutions was 129 as against 154 in the previous year. Of the 81 students who appeared from these colleges in the Islamic Intermediate Examination held in March 1929, 44 were successful. The total number of Madrasahs in the Presidency at the close of the year was 719 with 71,323 pupils on their rolls. Of the total number of Madrasahs, 582 were of the reformed type, the rest being of the old type. Out of the 287 candidates who appeared at the High Madrasah Examination, 147 were successful. In the Junior Madrasah Examination 944 students passed out of 1,835 candidates who sat for the examination. The number of Maktabs or primary schools for Moslems was 24,186. The total number of pupils reading in these institutions was 760,258, of whom 545,038 were boys and 215,220 were girls. The number of Moslem girls reading in various grades of recognised schools and colleges in the Presidency was 257,830 as compared with 242,483 in the previous year. Of these girls 5 were in colleges, 38 were in the high stage, 82 were in the middle stage, 257,429 were in the primary stage and 276 read in special schools. Out of the total number of over 250,000 Moslem girls at the primary stage of instruction only 2,852 are reading in classes V and IV or 1·1 per cent.

Literature and the Press.

Bengal Library and the working of Act XXV of 1867.

474. The total number of publications registered was 4,651, of which 3,287 were books and 1,364 periodicals. Of the former 3,132 were original publications against 3,038 in 1927, and 155 republications and translations against 387 in 1927. The number of educational books was the same as in 1927, viz., 1,085; while the number of non-educational books fell from 2,340 to 2,202.

The Press.

475. The total number of newspapers and periodicals, both English and vernacular, was 696 against 716 in the previous year. The number of newspapers was 231. Of the total number of publications 192 were in English, 359 in Bengali and the remainder in other languages. During the year 153 newspapers and periodicals were started and 193 ceased to exist.

Proscriptions and prosecutions.

476. During the year under review 2 books were forfeited under section 99-A, Criminal Procedure Code. Two newspapers were prosecuted under section 124-A and 153-A, Indian Penal Code, three under section 124-A, Indian Penal Code, and one under section 153-A, Indian Penal Code. Five of the cases ended in conviction; the sixth was pending at the end of the year.

LITERARY SOCIETIES.

[See General Administration Report for 1921-22, Part II, pages 293-95.]

ARTS AND SCIENCES.

Government School of Art, Calcutta.

477. The total number of students on the rolls of the Government School of Art, Calcutta, on the 31st March 1929, was 373 as against 412 in the previous year. Of these students 148 belonged to the Elementary Department, 22 to the Industrial Department, 55 to the Draftsman Department, 101 to the Fine Arts Department, 3 to the Teachers' Department, 39 to the Commercial Art Section, and 5 to the Indian Painting Department. There were 351 Hindu and only 10 Muhammadan students; the rest belonged to other creeds. The maintenance charges of the school amounted to Rs. 59,161 during the year, of which Rs. 40,626 was paid from provincial revenues. The Indian Drawing and Painting Department has been revived at the school. An exhibition of drawings, paintings and engravings by teachers, students and friends of the school was held at the school from 19th to 31st December 1928.

Other Schools of Art.

478. There were four other Schools of Art in the Presidency, to three of which grants were given by Government.

CHAPTER VIII.—Miscellaneous.

[See General Administration Report for 1921-22, Part II, pages 298-301.]

Ecclesiastical.

Establishment.

479. The Ecclesiastical establishment in Bengal from April 1928 to September 1929, paid entirely or in part by Government, consisted of the Lord Bishop of Calcutta, the Archdeacon of Calcutta, the Domestic Chaplain to the Bishop, the Registrar of the Diocese, 10 Chaplains of the Church of England, 13 Clergymen of the Additional Clergy or other Societies, 3 Chaplains of the Church of Scotland, the Most Reverend Archbishop Dr. Ferdinand Perier, S.J., and 4 Priests of the Roman Catholic Church.

Hedjaz Pilgrims.

480. During the pilgrim season of 1929 only one ship with a thousand passengers sailed from Calcutta for the Hedjaz. In February the Protection of Muhammadan Pilgrims Act, 1896, was amended so as to give the Local Government power to make rules for the control of Moallems, to whose activities references were made in previous reports, and rules have been recently promulgated. The Committee appointed by the Government of India "to enquire into the arrangements in force for pilgrims proceeding to the Hedjaz" examined several witnesses both in Calcutta and Dacca, largely on the desirability of keeping the port of Calcutta open for the embarkation of pilgrims.

Chemical Examiner's Department.

[Report of the Chemical Examiner for the year 1928.]

General.

481. Lieutenant-Colonel T. C. Boyd, I.M.S., continued to hold charge of the department during the year under review.

The Committee appointed to enquire into the reorganisation of the Medical College and Hospitals, Calcutta, and also to consider the report on the Department of Chemistry previously submitted by the Chemical Reorganisation Committee in 1927, continued their deliberations during the year. Their report however was not submitted till after the close of the year.

Analytical cases.

482. During the year 8,876 articles were examined in the department, showing an increase of 1,319 over the figures of the previous year. In the General Analytical Department 3,381 examinations were made as compared with 3,058 in the previous year. Examinations under "Excise" showed an increase of 69 cases under "Cocaine" and of 181 under "Opium."

Medico-legal cases.

483. The number of medico-legal cases referred to this department for examination in 1928 was 2,412 as against 2,112 in the year before. The number of human poisoning cases investigated was 1,201, showing an increase of 176 as compared with the previous year's figures, while the number of animal poisoning cases examined showed an increase of 70. Under stain cases an increase of 54 was noticeable. The total number of articles examined during the year rose from 4,351 in 1927 to 5,285 in the year under report.

The number of detections of poison in human poisoning cases was 156 in 1928 as compared with 191 in 1927, while that in animal poisoning cases was 103, i.e., 61·67 per cent. against 56·75 per cent. in 1927.

Veterinary Department.

[Annual Report of the Veterinary College and of the Civil Veterinary Department for the year 1928-29.]

Bengal Veterinary College.

484. In the beginning of the year 340 applications for admission were received. There were 168 students on the rolls at the close of the session against 144 in the previous year. Of these 60 were from Bengal against 46 last year. The rest included students from Bihar and Orissa, Penang, Ceylon, Iraq, Cochin State and elsewhere. On the results of the annual examinations the Board of Examiners stated that they considered the results were highly satisfactory in classes A and B. With regard to class C they were of opinion that more attention should be paid to clinical and practical work, particularly in the Bovine Section.

Twenty-four men from other provinces attended the four months' training class for Farriers and Dressers during the year.

College Hospital.

485. Two thousand six hundred and seventy-four patients were treated and 291 operations performed against 2,561 and 469, respectively, last year.

Raymond Research Laboratory.

486. The laboratory continued to do useful work in examining brains of different species of rabid animals and many other pathological specimens and in diagnosing diseases of cattle and horses.

Civil Veterinary Department.

487. Epidemic diseases were on the whole less prevalent, the total number of deaths from such diseases being 13,848 against 16,066 in the previous year. Deaths from rinderpest, which accounted for 67 per cent. of the total, fell from 11,790 to 8,806, but the number of deaths from hæmorrhagic septicæmia rose from 1,899 to 3,158. There were 281 deaths from foot and mouth disease against 693 in the preceding year.

More inoculations were performed, the figures being 122,675 inoculations in 596 outbreaks against 113,757 in 532 outbreaks in 1927-28. The death roll among inoculated animals was only 0·4 per cent. of the total. Free demonstrations of serum simultaneous inoculation against rinderpest were organised at Char Patharghata in the district of Bakargunj, where altogether 891 animals were protected by this method. There was a decrease of patients treated by the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons on tour, viz., 131,564 against 169,385, while the number of cases treated at the dispensaries and hospitals fell from 71,159 to 60,606.

Dispensaries.

488. No new hospital or dispensary was opened while the municipal dispensary at Narayangunj was closed. The construction of a serum cellar at the Mymensingh hospital was almost completed and the District Board of Faridpur constructed a dispensary shed with Veterinary Assistant Surgeon's quarters at Gopalganj.

Zoological Garden, Calcutta.

[Annual Report of the Honorary Committee for the year 1928-29.]

Finance and Statistics.

489. The total receipts of the garden rose from Rs. 1,37,465 to Rs. 1,41,017 and the expenditure from Rs. 1,16,174 to Rs. 1,32,894. Visitors to the garden numbered 1,136,910, an increase of 29,749 as compared with the previous year. Receipts from gate money increased from Rs. 76,701 to Rs. 78,333. With the permission of the Committee a private exhibitor exhibited a "white" elephant in the garden for three months ending in August, when the elephant unfortunately died. To this the increase in the number of visitors may in some measure be attributed. The garden was as usual open free to the public one day in each month, and 50,199 persons visited the garden on free days as against 48,475 in the previous year.

Administration of the Cinematograph Act, 1928-29.

490. During the year under review, the Bengal Board of Censors held 15 meetings and certified 606 films. Six hundred and thirty-two films were examined by the Board's Inspectors. Certificates were refused for ten films and 85 films were passed after objectionable portions had been excised. There was an appeal against the decision of the Board in connection with the suspension of the certificate of the film "Shoulder Arms." Government directed that the film should be certified as suitable for exhibition subject to certain excisions.

The Local Government have submitted their views on the recommendation of the Indian Cinematograph Committee in regard to the establishment of a central censorship authority with headquarters at Bombay. The matter is under the consideration of the Government of India.

Administration of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910.

[Report on the administration of the Indian Electricity Act in Bengal for 1928.]

491. Four new licences were granted during the year 1928 for the supply of electrical energy in the municipal areas of Pabna, Serampore, Rangpur and Berhampore. The applications made in 1927 for the supply of electric energy to the towns of Kurseong, Bhatpara (Riverside Distribution), Rajshahi and Serajganj remained under consideration, while that of the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, for Hooghly-Chinsura was withdrawn. One fresh application for a licence for the town of Comilla was received. None of the existing licences was revoked.

A proposal put forward by the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, to construct a tunnel between the Southern Power Station on the east bank of the Hooghly near Garden Reach and the Botanical Gardens on the west bank with the object of finding a shorter and more economical route for the load developing at the southern end of Howrah was under the consideration of Government.

There was some improvement in the working of the Hooghly-Chinsura Electric License, 1919, due to the high pressure aerial lines between Hooghly Ghat and Chinsura and from there to French Chandernagore being brought into use.

Sanction to the supply of electrical energy under section 28(*f*) of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, was granted in two cases at Barisal and Tangail.

There were 52 accidents during the year against 71 in 1927, of which 14 proved fatal. Three prosecutions were instituted in connection with fatal accidents, where breaches of the Indian Electricity Act or rules were discovered, and ended in convictions and fines.

Auxiliary Force, India, and Indian Territorial Force.

492. During the year under review orders were issued permitting Government servants to join the Auxiliary and Territorial Forces under certain conditions.

Unit Advisory Committees were formed for the 2nd (Calcutta) Battalion, University Training Corps, the 11/19 Hyderabad Regiment (Bengal Wing) and the 12th Dacca Company, University Training Corps.

INDEX.

	PAGE.
Act—	
Acts passed during the year ..	16
—XXV of 1867. Working of—	168
Cinematograph—. Administration of the—	172
Court fees—. Working of section 19H—of the— ..	143
Indian Companies—. Working of the—	86
Indian Electricity—. Administration of the— ..	172
Indian Trade Unions— ..	84
Indian Factories—. Working of the—	82
Land Improvement and Agriculturist's Loans— ..	7
Marriage—of 1872. Working of the—	39
Muhammadan Registration—and Kazi's—. Working of the—	39
Poisons—	159
Provident Insurance Societies—	87
Workmen's Compensation—. Working of the— ..	85
Administration of the province. Changes in the	1
Agriculture—	
Administration of the department	60
Agricultural education ..	60
Agricultural research and experiment	61
Agricultural engineering and irrigation	62
Agricultural propaganda and exhibitions	63
Cattle breeding	62
Character of the agricultural season	64
Kalimpong agricultural farm ..	61
Art—	
Government School of—, Calcutta	168
Other schools of— ..	168
Auxiliary Force, India, and Indian Territorial Force	173
Bills—See Legislation ..	
Calcutta Corporation ..	40
Calcutta Improvement Trust ..	45
Cesses—	
Demands and collection of— ..	146
Rate of—	145
Road and Public Works— ..	145
Valuation and revaluation of—	146
Chemical Examiner's Department	169
Chittagong—See Marine Department.	
Chittagong Hill Tracts—	
Administration of civil and criminal justice in the— ..	35
Land revenue administration of the—	15

	PAGE.
Cinchona plantations and factory	74
Communal relations between Hindus and Muhammadans ..	xviii
Condition of the people of the Bengal Presidency	4
Congress party. Activities of the—	xvi
Cooch Behar State—	
Administration of the— ..	2
Crops and condition of the people of the—	2
Educational institutions in the—	3
Public health in the— ..	3
Co-operative movement—	
Administration of the department	67
Bengal Provincial Co-operative Bank, Ltd.	67
Central Banks	67
Co-operative Societies—	
Agricultural credit— ..	68
Agricultural purchase and purchase and sale— ..	69
Antimalarial and Public Health	71
Artisans'—	71
Bengal Co-operative Organisation Society, Ltd. ..	72
Co-operative Agricultural Association	70
Development of— ..	67
Fishermen's—	71
House-building— ..	71
Industrial Unions	73
Irrigation and Drainage Societies	70
Milk—	70
Naogaon Ganja Cultivators' Co-operative Society, Ltd. ..	70
Non-agricultural credit— ..	68
Relief—	72
Silk—	71
Stores and supply— ..	70
Weavers'—	70
Women's organisation ..	72
Council—See Legislation.	
Crops—	
Bhadoi—	65
Cotton	66
Jute	65
Rabi	66
Rice	65
Sugarcane	66
Total cropped area ..	66
Disputes. Industrial— ..	xxii
District Boards—	
Expenditure on education by—	55
Expenditure on public health and medical relief ..	57
Expenditure on veterinary works	58
Expenditure on civil works ..	58
Expenditure on water supply ..	59
Income and expenditure of— ..	55

	PAGE.
Ecclesiastical	169
Eden Sanitarium, Darjeeling ...	158
Education—	
Agricultural—	60
Ashanullah School of Engineering	165
Bengal Engineering College ..	165
Collegiate—	162
Educational institutions and expenditure	162
Education of Indian girls and women	165
Education of Europeans and Anglo-Indians ..	166
First grade training of normal schools	164
Government Commercial Institute, Calcutta	165
Government School of Art, Calcutta	168
Guru and muallim training schools	164
Muhammadan—	167
Primary—	163, li
Rural Primary Education Bill—See Legislation.	
Secondary—	163
Training of male teachers ..	163
Training of women teachers ..	164
Emigration	160
Excise—	
Bhang	144
Charas	145
Cocaine	145
Country spirit	144
—Revenue	143
—Offences	145
Foreign liquor	144
Ganja	144
Opium	145
Pachwai	144
Tari	144
Finance—	
Financial condition ..	xxv
Imperial—	132
Provincial—	136
Forest Department—	
Administration of the— ..	75
Expenditure on communications and buildings in the— ..	76
Forest Revenue	76
Government estates—	
Grant for management and improvement of—	12
Number and management of—	12
Hedjaz pilgrims	169
Horticulture	73
Hospitals and dispensaries in Calcutta	156
Hospitals and dispensaries in districts	157
Income-tax	135
Industries—	
Administration of the department	77
Bengal Tanning Institute ..	78
Chemical section	77

	PAGE.
Industries—*concld.*	
Engineering section ..	77
Home—	79
Industrial disputes ..	xxii
Industrial education—	
Engineering section ..	77
State technical scholarships ..	78
Technical—	78
Irrigation Department—	
Canals (Irrigation and Navigation)	122
Embankment and Drainage Works	125
Major irrigation works (unproductive), South-Western Circle	125
Major navigation works (unproductive)	127
Minor irrigation works ..	126
Minor navigation works ..	127
Other irrigation schemes in western Bengal ..	126
Jails—	
Expenditure on jail administration	36
Health of prisoners in the jails of Bengal	36
Jail population in Bengal ..	36
Jail punishment	38
Juvenile offenders ..	37
Reforms in the Bengal jails ..	37
Justice (Criminal)—	
Appellate courts subordinate to the High Court	27
Criminal cases found to be true	24
Criminal offences reported ..	24
Courts of Session	25
High Court—Appellate jurisdiction	26
Judicial staff	23
Magistrates outside Calcutta ..	24
Presidency Magistrates' courts	24
Justice (Civil)—	
Calcutta Small Cause Court ..	32
Civil courts in the muffasal subordinate to the High Court	30
High Court (Appellate jurisdiction)	32
High Court (Original jurisdiction)	28
Judicial staff (Civil) ..	28
Labour disputes	83
Land acquisition work ..	7
Land registration work ..	7
Land Records and Settlement ..	8
Burdwan settlement ..	11
Chittagong settlement ..	11
Khulna settlement ..	9
Murshidabad-Birbhum settlement	9
Pabna-Bogra settlement ..	9
24-Parganas settlement ..	10
Land revenue—	
Coercive measures adopted for the realisation of— ..	6
Total collection of— ..	6
Total redemption of— ..	6

	PAGE.
Legislation—	
Government Bills ..	xx, 17
Private Bills ..	xx, 18
Rural Primary Education Bill	xx
Questions and resolutions in the Bengal Legislative Council	xxi
Manufactures and mines—	
Coal	80
Cotton	79
Jute	79
Paper	80
Saltpetre	80
Silk	79
Tea	79
Wool	80
Manufactures (miscellaneous)—	
Chittagong Division ..	81
Dacca Division	81
Presidency Division ..	81
Rajshahi Division ..	81
Marine Department—	
Chittagong Port	110
Port of Calcutta	109
Shipping and Navigation ..	110
Merchandise—	
Exports of—	98
Coal	99
Cotton and cotton manufactures	102
Dyeing and tanning substances	104
Flour	98
Grain	98
Hemp	102
Hides and skins	100
Jute and jute manufactures ..	102
Lac	99
Metals and ores	100
Mica	101
Oil seeds and vegetable oil	101
Opium	103
Pulse	98
Saltpetre	103
Tea	99
Merchandise. Imports of—	
Chemicals	92
Cotton manufactures ..	94
Drugs	92
Earthen ware	93
Glass	93
Glassware	93
Liquors	90
Machinery and mill work ..	93
Medicines	92
Metals and metal manufactures	93
Mineral oil	91
Motor vehicles	92
Paper and paste board ..	94
Salt	90
Silk and artificial silk piece goods	96
Sugar	90
Tobacco	91
Woollen goods	96
Miscellaneous revenue. Total collection of—	6
Municipalities outside Calcutta ..	46
Closing balance ..	49
Collections	48

	PAGE.
Municipalities outside Calcutta—*concld.*	
Elections of—	47
Expenditure on education by—	49
Expenditure on water-supply by—	50
Expenditure on conservancy and drainage by— ..	51
Expenditure on lighting by—	52
Expenditure on public health by—	52
Expenditure on public works by—	53
Income and expenditure ..	49
Municipal meetings ..	47
Number of—	46
Population and rate-payers ..	47
Rates and taxes	47
Total indebtedness of— ..	53
Partition work	7
Police—	
—Administration in Bengal ..	19
—Administration in Calcutta ..	21
Crime statistics in Calcutta ..	22
Crime statistics in Bengal ..	20
Discipline in the Bengal— ..	20
Discipline in the Calcutta— ..	22
Eastern Frontier Rifles ..	19
Housing of the Calcutta Police	22
Public order in Calcutta ..	22
Recruitment and health of the civil Police	19
Strength of the Calcutta Police	21
Village police and police work of union boards	21
Political situation	vii
Muhammadans and politics ..	xvi
Europeans and politics ..	xvii
Press	xix
Public Health—	
Births	147
Cholera	147
Dai Training	152
Death rate	147
Dysentry and diarrhœa ..	150
Enteric and other fevers ..	150
General health conditions ..	147
Health of the port of Calcutta	159
Health of the port of Chittagong	160
Injuries	150
Kala-azar	149
Malaria	149
Mortality caused by wild animals and snakes	154
Plague	150
Public Health laboratories ..	151
Respiratory diseases ..	150
Sanitary administration in municipal and rural areas ..	153
School Hygiene	152
Small pox	148
Registration—	
Financial condition of the—department	38
Number of—in Bengal ..	38
Revenue and rent-paying classes	14

	PAGE.
Salt—	
Consumption and prices of salt	134
Quantity of salt imported ..	134
Salt credit system	134
Sanitation—	
Sanitary Board	155
Sanitary Engineering ..	155
Sanitary administration in municipal and rural areas ..	153
Sericulture	63
Settlement—See Land Records and settlement.	
Smoke Nuisances Commission, Bengal	85
Stamps—	
Deficient duty levied under—Act.	142
Prosecutions under the—Act ..	142
Revenue and charges under the—Act and Court Fees Acts ..	142
Revenue from Judicial— ..	142
Revenue from non-Judicial—	142
Sale of—Number of vendors holding licenses to sell stamps and the amount of discount allowed to them ..	142
Statutory commission. Indian—	viii
Steam Boiler Commission, Bengal	84
Strikes. Jute Mills— ..	xxii
Strikes in oil depots ..	xxiv
Sunderbans. Colonization of the—	13
Surveys	8
Tanning. See Industries.	
Trade—	
Coasting—	108
Foreign sea-borne— ..	88
Import—of Chittagong ..	97
Trade position ..	88
Tripura State—	
Administration of the— ..	3
Crops and condition of the people of the—	3
Educational institutions in the—	4
Public Health in the— ..	3
Veterinary—	
Bengal—College	170
Civil—Department ..	171
Raymond Research laboratory	170
—College hospital	170
—Dispensaries	171
Wards and attached estates ..	13
Waste lands	11
Weather and crops	64
Youth movement and its effects ..	xiii, xiv.
Zoological Garden, Calcutta ..	171

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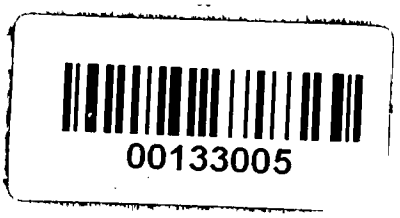
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